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Berlin settlement essential for Bonn's detente policies



Slowly but surely the Four-Power talks on Berlin are making progress, chief Soviet delegate Pyotr Abrassimov gave the Press to understand after the last round of talks, the sixteenth.

It depends on the interests and temperament of the individual which of the two attributes is emphasised. The Americans prefer to stress the protracted nature of the negotiations. They have yet to register measurable progress.

The Bonn Federal government, on the other hand, is as optimistic as ever. Of late it has even been sure that a settlement will have been arranged by this autumn.

Bonn has even committed itself to a deadline, compensation for road haulage having to wait at the border to and from Berlin being due to cease as of 30 September.

By then, the Federal government evidently feels, the Allies ought to have reached agreement on the basic outlines of an agreement that will put an end to pressure on access routes to and from West Berlin.

Only recently Chancellor Brandt, election campaigning in Schleswig-Holstein, avoided committing himself on this point but in Bonn State Secretary Ahlers has now made the announcement.

There is, of course, every reason to be optimistic. The willingness of the East Berlin Council of Ministers to negotiate with the Senate of West Berlin an agreement allowing West Berliners to visit the other half of the city and maybe the GDR too would seem to indicate some relaxation of the hard line pursued so far by Walter Ulbricht and — more particularly — by Erich Honecker, his deputy.

East Berlin is clearly also convinced that agreement is slowly but surely being reached between the four ambassadors and is intervening as soon as possible in order to salvage as much as possible of its concept of West Berlin as an independent political unit by means of direct negotiations now with West Berlin Senate.

The Federal government and the Senate cannot, of course, oblige. Whatever happens they must await the outcome of the Four-Power talks. Only temporary arrangements such as entry-permits for West Berliners over Easter can be agreed in the meantime.

This likewise applies to the current talks between State Secretaries Egon Bahr and Michael Kohl. They too are to be understood as an accompaniment to and consequence of the Berlin talks and are making such good progress that it looks as though the great powers will reach agreement on Berlin before very long.

For the first time since the end of the Berlin blockade serious negotiations over an improvement of the situation are, Willy Brandt says, taking place. He is quite right and it is indeed promising.

This is not to say anything about deadlines, though. East Berlin will continue to employ every means at its command to link up this agreement with some form of international upgrading for itself — UN membership for both German states, for instance.

There can still be no certainty as to whether or not current Soviet willingness to negotiate represents a permanent change in approach and will, sooner or later, lead to easier relations between the two Germanies.

The Polish unrest lent added weight to mistrust in Moscow as warnings of alleged Social Democratic subversion in the Eastern Bloc have shown. A clearer light will not be shed on the situation until the Soviet Communist Party congress in Moscow at the end of this month.

So it is inept of the Federal government, to say the least, to commit itself to a deadline on which it has no influence.

It was the same with forecasts about ratification of the Moscow Treaty, which has been made dependent on a satisfactory Berlin settlement. Initially all was to be clear by the beginning of this year, then by this spring and now by autumn.

Yet the four ambassadors have so far only meet sixteen times. It took 252 sessions before the Austrian Treaty was finalised. Negotiations with the Soviet Union are, when all is said and done, protracted and call for Oriental patience.

This will be the first Four-Power meeting since the end of the war, indeed the first since agreement between the Big Three at Yalta. The Federal government must also reckon with the United States linking it to other focal points of international affairs.

America is certainly not going to allow itself to be pressurised into undue haste by its allies in Bonn even though it ought to have more understanding of German impatience after years of impotence and inactivity, with Bonn pressing for peacefully negotiated settlements in the interest of the people affected.

Ostpolitik will have its outcome decided over the next few months in Berlin, Herr Brandt recently announced in Timmendorf. In reality it is the fate of the present government that will be decided now that the Bonn coalition has gone further towards meeting Moscow halfway than any of its predecessors.

This, then, is the deeper-seated reason for haste. The Federal government is waiting for Moscow to make some concessions and the longer it has to wait the stronger its opponents' opposition will grow and the weaker it itself will become.

B. Brügge

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 14 March 1971)

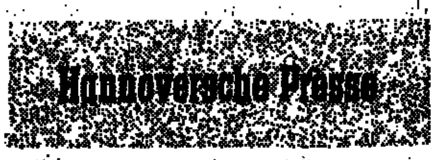
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SPD win in Berlin

Klaus Schütz, Mayor of West Berlin, with his wife Heidi at the West Berlin polls. A new city council was elected on 14 March. The Social Democrats with 50.5 per cent of the vote just succeeded in maintaining their absolute majority. The Christian Democratic vote increased from 32.0 to 38.2 per cent. The Free Democrats increased their vote from 7.1 to 8.5 per cent. The Socialist Unity Party (SEW) was still well under the five percent hurdle with 2.3 per cent of votes cast in its favour. (In 1967 its vote was 2 per cent.) and remains unrepresented on the council. (Photo: dpa)

West Berlin elections



Always assuming that observers who attached major importance to the West Berlin local elections were right in so doing the result can only be termed a vote of approval for the country's policy towards the Eastern Bloc.

The Social Democrats may have sustained losses in Berlin but their retention of an absolute majority on the city council is definitely due to the unerring policy they have pursued in the city for more than twenty years.

The SPD lost votes and the Christian Democrats registered substantial gains but neither fact comes as any surprise, having been forecast by virtually all and sundry.

The only real surprise is that the Free Democrats consolidated their position. The Communist SEW continues not to merit a mention.

The SPD substained losses in boroughs where the party had disproportionately high majorities last time. At the same time many people will not have voted Social Democrat because of longstanding dissension and the propaganda campaigns of left-wing groups.

By and large, though, the SPD's losses are a normal reaction to the unusually high share of the vote polled in 1967. The party can be more than satisfied at having retained the absolute majority, so obviating the need to form a coalition.

The Christian Democrats' new look in Berlin has obviously paid dividends. The new men at the top have proved an attractive proposition.

In recent months the Free Democrats have campaigned boldly against the SPD's absolute majority. This will not make it any the easier for them to return into the coalition fold with the SPD but in all probability this is what they will be doing.

The SPD would do well to make them an offer. In its position it can afford to forget minor pinpricks.

Wolfgang Fechner

(Hannoversche Presse, 15 March 1971)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Moscow is a master of deception

DIE WELT

For a country like the Soviet Union foreign policy is invariably either a function or a continuation of home affairs and a result of the ideological and party-political interests of the Soviet Communist Party.

It is only by working on this assumption that a plausible explanation can be provided for the fact that Moscow considers it right to allow shadows to be cast on relations between this country and the Soviet Union.

First there was the war of nerves of interviews and disclaimers, then the chicanery in Berlin, then the toughening of the Soviet attitude at the Salt talks. All this and much more would be incomprehensible, indeed illogical, if the Soviet Union were a conventional great power.

Has not many a Soviet hope been fulfilled of late in respect of this country? Was not the erosion of public opinion under the Brandt government making considerable progress? In the theory the Soviet Union need only have continued the soft approach to Bonn for a few months more to achieve at least psychological success.

Was not the Brandt-Scheel government the ideal coalition in Bonn as far as Moscow was concerned? Why should the Kremlin change its tune? What reason is there for angry comments that Moscow has been misled by Willy Brandt who has failed to keep his promises? How seriously are the subsequent denials meant?

Disregarding for a moment subjective factors (there can, for instance, be no way of knowing how the Soviet side understood State Secretary Egon Bahr's statements of intent and marginal comments) a problem that the signatories of the Moscow Treaty wrongly assessed remains. It is that of the situation in the Eastern Bloc and within the Soviet Union.

It is nothing new for Moscow's policy to appear two-faced, when all is said and done. There are two faces to Soviet policy and this is the case because it is faced with a problem fraught with contradictions.

On the one hand Moscow must strive to expand according to the dynamic of Communist teachings and in line with its world power potential. On the other it must, in view of experiences over the last few decades, take continual care to ensure that its internal line and bloc cohesion are not jeopardised.

From Moscow's point of view the treaty with Bonn was undoubtedly part of its policy of expansion, expansion not necessarily meaning tanks on the move or a communist take-over of power.

This country being in Moscow's eyes the most serious partner and protagonist in continental Europe it would initially have been enough to neutralise Bonn politically and psychologically. This alone would have changed the balance of power not only in Europe but in the world as a whole.

To continue along Moscow's line of thought America would in the long run be ejected from Western Europe. Taken together with power changes in the Eastern Mediterranean this would have meant the emergence of an entirely new situation.

Those of the Soviet leaders who were working along these lines could not have foreseen that dramatic domestic problems were to beset the Soviet empire within a short space of time.

In December 1970, shortly after Chancellor Brandt's visit to Warsaw, there were uprisings in Danzig, Gdynia and Stettin.

The Soviet Union may well have believed that after the draconian measures resorted to in Czechoslovakia peace and quiet (and with them foreign policy leeway) were assured for many years within the Eastern Bloc.

Instead it transpired that the intervals between one uprising and the next are growing increasingly shorter. There was East Berlin in 1953, Poland and Hungary in 1956, Prague in 1968 and now, in 1970, Poland again.

The Kremlin was clearly faced with the possibility of unrest spreading to neighbouring GDR and maybe even to parts of the Soviet Union itself.

This time the rebels achieved something that had never before proved lastingly possible in a Communist country. From outside the Party machine they forced the country's Party leader to resign. What is more, Wladyslaw Gomulka is a man who enjoyed the full confidence of the Soviet Union.

At the same time his successor, Edward Gierek, was persuaded to negotiate with the spokesmen of the striking workers. When the dockers refused to go to Warsaw, First Secretary Gierek went to Stettin. This too was a symbolic act the long-term repercussions of which can only be guessed at.

With confusion at home and further complications and uprisings on the cards it is not advisable to launch a major offensive with the aim of embracing outsiders.

Indeed the Social Democratic other side, which was to be exploited as a lever against the West German bourgeoisie and American imperialism, now itself becomes something of a problem.

Moscow changed its tune to match the changed situation and aimed broadsides at Social Democratism, which, it claimed, was no more than an agent and lackey of the bourgeoisie.

This no doubt accounts for Moscow's sudden interest in the Christian Democrats and a "bourgeois" government that has confirmed all unilateral concessions so far made by Willy Brandt and would, as it were, take them over, so – Moscow no doubt hopes – leaving Bonn with an administration both combining the benefits of Social Democratic policy and

Continued on page 4

Doubts on Soviet readiness to limit arms production

At first glance the military might of the United States appears to be declining step by step in relation to that of the Soviet Union.

Ten years ago Washington threatened massive retaliation. In the late sixties flexible defence was the catchphrase. Now Defence Secretary Laird has arrived at the even more modest term "realistic deterrence."

In reality, of course, the United States has made every effort to prevent the Soviet Union from gaining military superiority.

In the strategic weapons sector at least America has, by introducing MIRV warheads for its long-range rockets at the right moment, retained a clear advantage even though Washington claims officially to be satisfied with level-pegging in the arms race.

The new defence programme submitted to Congress by Mr Laird also includes a major step towards the development of an anti-missile system.

It is not for nothing that the US government has requested Congress permission to go ahead with two new defence projects shortly before the resumption of the strategic arms limi[tation] talks with the Soviet Union.

Moscow will get the message. U[nless] agreement is soon forthcoming at the talks America plans to go ahead wi[th its] missile defence programme.

Unless some agreement is reached [be]tween the two the arms race, whi[ch has] already reached proportions that [are be]yond the comprehension of the m[an in] the street, will continue ad infinitum.

Any such agreement, though (a[s] is one of the most important de[cisions] the US government has reached), [must] include not only anti-missile missil[es but] also strategic weapons, a limitation [of the] number of offensive weapons, that i[s].

Washington seems of late to be [con]sidering whether it might not be [enough] to limit numbers to the present [level,] destroying not a single missile o[r war]head.

Yet much though Mankind may [hope] that one of these days there will [not only] be a ban on the development of [new] weapons but also a reduction [in the] number of existing ones there is [every] reason to wonder whether the S[oviet] Union will be prepared to accept [a limita]tion of its arms potential when it [is not] even prepared to agree to a restri[ction in] terms of numbers.

(DER TAGESSPIEGEL, 10 March [1971])

Berlin is not detente cornerstone

The outcome of *Ostpolitik* will be decided in Berlin," Willy Brandt recently stated in the divided city. Yet only last August the selfsame Willy Brandt, commenting on the euphoria that accompanied signature of the treaty with Moscow, was heard to ask people not to make such a song and dance about it.

Berlin is not the eye of the needle through which the Moscow Treaty and policy towards the Eastern Bloc must pass. The Chancellor himself has repeatedly come out against styling Berlin a lost case or yardstick.

He ought to stand by this attitude too, even though an election campaign may be in progress in West Berlin and even though he may feel that the Four-Power talks on Berlin are no longer likely to prove a failure.

There can be no doubt about the connection between detente in Berlin and relaxation of tension in Europe as a whole. According to reports from the Soviet capital the Kremlin is well [aware] of the fact but would prefer not [to be] continually reminded, particula[rly by] Bonn, because of the harm to its p[restige] as a superpower.

Willy Brandt embarked on a di[fficult] and dangerous path when he made [ratifi]cation of the Moscow Treaty depe[ndent] on a satisfactory solution to the B[erlin] Question (Berlin settlement would [a]probably be the better term).

He always tends to anticipate [...] and this time he was presumably willing to acknowledge the powe[r the] GDR would pack against a Berlin [settle]ment satisfactory from Bonn's p[oint of] view and against *Ostpolitik* as a whol[e].

The GDR's power to oppose the [settle]ments has weakened. East Berlin [...] have been clearly told by Moscow [where] they stand. Their readiness to [...] entry-permits for West Berliners [at] Easter is a hopeful sign.

Specific successes of Chanc[ellor] Brandt's Eastern policy are in the off[ing]. As leader of the Social Democrats he [can] cheerfully emphasise the fact.

Berlin cannot be excluded fr[om re]laxation of tension in Europe but [it is] dangerous to behave as though de[tente] must pass through the eye of a need[le in] the form of a Berlin settlement as th[ough] this were the only way to the pr[omised] land.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 8 March [1971])

EEC in need of new political guidelines

The Six are having trouble again. In the course of a month differences have come to light that could, after a period of brinkmanship, lead to a disastrous crisis.

A number of discordant notes have clouded the atmosphere within the European European Community (EEC) of late: – France has lodged objections to the Werner Plan proposals for an economic and monetary union

– Opinions have differed as to an increase in farm prices and the implementation of structural measures in agriculture

– President Pompidou of France has advocated the establishment of a European Confederation

– France has insisted on retention of the Rome Treaty specification that decisions must be unanimous

– There has been a clash with the United States over the Six's protectionist agricultural and trade policy

– Details of Britain's entry negotiations have also worn down tempers and eroded good will.

Even at its most critical periods the EEC never had to face such a comprehensive catalogue of difficulties. Never before has there been so much tension beneath the surface. It came to the crunch in a matter of days and trouble could recur hourly.

France's latest inclination to favour majority decisions, which runs counter to the provisions of the Treaty of Rome, holds forth gloomy prospects for the Six. How on earth are decisions to be reached by a ten-member EEC, always presuming one materialises in a couple of years' time?

How, in the circumstances, does the EEC visualise its future? Decisions in principle have been made to implement the resolutions adopted at the December 1969 Hague summit but now it is a matter of details, national differences have again come to light and confusion reigns.

Who is to be the pacemaker of progress? The Ministers no longer have a suitable concept at the ready. They are waiting in hope. The EEC Commission in Brussels is also waiting for a further summit conference of EEC premiers and heads of state to outline new political directions.

Helmut J. Weland

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 11 March 1971)

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■ POLITICS

Barzel and Schröder contenders for chancellorship candidature



Gerhard Schröder

(Photos: J.H. Darchinger)

Gerhard Schröder has announced his claim to the candidature for Chancellor publicly and unequivocally. For the Christian Democrats the field has now been narrowed down to two – Schröder and Rainer Barzel.

These are the two names that remain from all the many candidates. The rest have paled into insignificance.

It is no surprise that Gerhard Schröder has stepped into the ring to challenge the favourite. He has always considered himself a pretender to the office of Head of State. What is surprising is the earliness with which he has got in his claim.

This has come before the CDU's party discussions, which the leadership has said should begin when the provincial assembly elections are over. It has also come before other challengers have been able to voice their claim.

Obviously Gerhard Schröder feels the time has come to halt Rainer Barzel's bid for candidate for the Chancellorship. In fact the chances of Barzel, who has the most politically effective place in the CDU/CSU in his capacity as leader of the Opposition, have increased all the more as the number of other candidates increased.

The danger that Barzel's application for the candidature could quickly become an uncontested matter-of-course has obviously influenced Gerhard Schröder in his decision more than the fear that his own prospects might be diminished.

The principle of democratic competition is enhanced if the choice of candidates is not restricte to just one suitable man. But the most significant thing about Schröder's move is that it has not been made for personal reasons alone, but is also part of a programme and at least creates a tactical alternative.

Whereas Rainer Barzel and Franz Josef Strauss seemed to have teamed up to launch total confrontation with the SPD/FDP coalition government, Gerhard Schröder said as long ago as last autumn: "It is important that the Opposition should not steer a collision course against the feeling of fairness that is widespread among the general public."

Whereas Rainer Barzel is opening up the gap between the government and Opposition on Ostpolitik ever wider with more and more demands Gerhard Schröder has not left anyone in doubt that he approves the basic intention of the government's East Bloc policies. He only casts doubt on the methods employed and the speed with which they are being carried out.

Behind all this there is the obvious fact that even if the CDU/CSU returned to power they could not undo what Willy Brandt and Walter Scheel have achieved.

Precisely for this reason the alliance with Helmut Kohl for which Schröder seems to be striving appears all the more suprising. He has recommended Kohl for the post of party Chairman.

Helmut Kohl is another politician who is not in favour of opposition for opposition's sake. In his election campaign in the Rhineland Palatinate he is trying to put over the aims of the government in Mainz in a matter-of-fact way without laying too much emphasis on differences of opinion with the SPD and FDP.

Anyone who has made a comparative study of the original CDU campaign programme drawn up under Kohl's aegis and the version that was passed by the Federal committee and the party political conference in Düsseldorf will have seen at a glance that the official standpoint of the party as set out there on matters such as Ostpolitik cannot possibly be Kohl's standpoint.



Rainer Barzel

A successful alliance between Gerhard Schröder and Helmut Kohl would put the controversy about East Bloc and German policies on more rational lines.

Certainly the first place in which Gerhard Schröder must win ground is his own camp. The parliamentary party has been upset by the way he has kept a stubborn silence in the Bundestag so far and has outlined his position in interviews outside the Bundestag instead.

His popularity in public opinion polls seems to vary in inverse proportion to his following in the parliamentary party. *Ideas of making the chancellor*, or *the* candidate for chancellor, quite separate from the party chairman have so far found little favour.

Finally it is by no means certain for whom Strauss and the CSU will give the thumbs-up and for whom the thumbs-down in the end, even though they are firmly on the side of Rainer Barzel at the moment. Schröder has taken a risk.

Nevertheless his pretension to the Chancellory has offered an alternative and in part a contrasting manifesto. It seemed that Barzel was the unchallenged champion, but now a duel is certain.

Carl-Christian Kaiser

(DIE ZEIT, 12 March 1971)

Bavarian Free Democrats elect Josef Ertl with large majority

No surprises in Nuremberg! Much more decisively than expected in many quarters the Bavarian Free Democrats voted their acting state Chairman Josef Ertl firmly into his position and elected his opponent, Herr Letz, the favourite of the left-wing liberals, his deputy.

This decisive vote came as a result of Ertl's trustworthiness and as recognition of his achievements as a minister in Bonn, as a mark of respect for his loyalty to the party despite the fact that it has not always taken courses he approves and with an eye on the voters, too.

Josef Ertl and the party leadership in Bonn can be well satisfied with the results of the vote in Nuremberg.

At the same time the decision may have come as a blow to many delegates. Despite his loyalty to the party there is no overlooking the fact that Josef Ertl has remained at the bottom of his heart a national liberal, a minority group in the Walter Scheel style FDP.

Viewed in this light Josef Ertl can scarcely be said to represent his party. In addition to this his election has not satisfied those Free Democrats who consider that the conversion of their party is *not yet complete and have in mind* a social-liberal reform party which can act with less bias and less dogmatically than the Social Democrats.



Josef Ertl

(Photo: Berliner Ausstellungen)

There is some doubt whether Josef Ertl will be capable of giving the Bavarian FDP a social-liberal character since it has always been in the past somewhere more conservative than other liberal organisations in the Federal states.

On the other hand Ertl is respected for the way in which he always recognises majority decisions. Since the leadership of the Bavarian FDP – unlike Ertl's advisers and circle of friends – is filled with people who are among the progressive group the Bavarian FDP will scarcely be able to alter its course but will at the most be able to slow down the tempo.

Josef Ertl's popularity and his efforts to unite national liberals could be of some value for this course.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 8 March 1971)

NPD face ruin

The National Democratic Party (NPD) is approaching its end. A ban on it, as recently demanded once again by Heinz Kühn, the Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, is no longer necessary.

The NPD is dying, slowly but surely. And its leader, Adolf von Thadden who has already experienced the end of so many extreme right-wing parties, knows it. Too many scandals and heavy defeats have destroyed his hope of forming a stable right-wing party from the NPD. As he has never learnt a trade, he is however only left with the choice of attempting this again and again.

His decline began in 1969. After incidents involving his pugnacious stewards in Frankfurt and his gun-happy bodyguard in Kassel he met with heavy defeat in the Bundestag elections.

In 1970 too people gave their verdict at the Federal state elections and showed that the NPD was not a party they could vote for. This trend will be confirmed this year at the elections in Rhineland-Palatinate and Schleswig-Holstein.

This time too scandals have helped to ruin the party even more. There have been the incidents involving the NPD-controlled *Aktion Widerstand*, the trial of Ekkehard Weil in Berlin for the attempted murder incited by Widerstand slogans of a Russian soldier guarding the Soviet War Memorial, the attack on the Russian embassy in which NPD members were involved and the discovery of an arsenal of weapons in North Rhine-Westphalia together with the subsequent arrest of a number of National Democrats. Thadden's party is suspected more and more of being a group of political criminals.

To save what was left, the executive twice within a month called upon the *faithful to be disciplined and vigilant*. It fervently warned them to be more considered in their actions, to have stronger nerves and to show self-control and self-confidence. "Revolutionary behaviour," the executive stated, "appears ridiculous and repulses."

Articles in this vein have been appearing week after week in the party newspaper *Deutsche Nachrichten*.

In a front-page article headlined "The NPD sticks to its course" party leader von Thadden himself attacked what he described as hotheads and outsiders though he did not rule out that the "necessary defensive measures taken to protect a party that was faithful to the State could affect an innocent person."

Adolf von Thadden has every reason to fear those forces he once summoned. Among the party's young extremists and his right-wing auxiliaries in Aktion Widerstand there is growing displeasure about the "tame functionaries" and "old men" at the head of the party. They are sick of speeches, they want a hullabaloo and do not even shrink from using violence.

Thadden's party spokesman Richard recently wrote, "Show the youth a better world, acquaint them with their own people, teach them to love Germany and give the homeless their fatherland back. That is the credo of our age. To work!" This appeal is directed to the party itself. It pinned extremism to its banner and is now going to rack and ruin because of it.

Adolf von Thadden can no longer lead his forlorn band of men, he can only lament his fate or chase phantoms. In a recent appeal to his comrades in arms he wrote. "It is the task of the NPD to do everything in its power to help replace the present Bundestag majority by 1973 at the latest by a majority that will halt or reverse with all the means at its disposal the present policy of capitulation."

If appearances are not deceptive, there will be no NPD in 1973. Thadden's end is in sight.

Dietrich Strothmann

(DIE ZEIT, 5 March 1971)

■ INTER GERMAN RELATIONS

Young people face different lives in the two parts of Germany

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

The Freie Deutsche Jugend (Free German Youth), the German Democratic Republic's youth organisation, celebrated its 25th anniversary on 7 March 1971.

At the end of July 1945 Marshal Zhukov of the Red Army ordered the establishment of youth committees in the Soviet Zone composed of the "most active and anti-Fascist boys and girls".

But it was not until 7 March 1946 that the Free German Youth was set up simultaneously in East Berlin, Saxony, Mecklenburg, Thuringia, Brandenburg, Anhalt and Lower Pomerania, heralded by an intense wave of propaganda.

Erich Honecker was made the organisation's first chairman, He has long been considered now to be a possible successor to Walter Ulbricht.

Since the Free German Youth (FDJ) was set up a quarter of a century ago a new generation has grow up in both parts of Germany that knows of Germany as a united country only from hearsay.

Young people on both sides of the inner-German demarcation line have been subject to extremely different influences. Between the Elbe and the Oder rivers the FDJ began to impress political ideology on the minds of the generation of tomorrow and, as Erich Honecker has stated, "accepted the guidance of Socialist Unity Party resolutions and advice".

The climax of this education and indoctrination was "to achieve the absorption of young people into the ranks of the party of the working class".

The Youth Law passed by the People's Chamber claims that the State and the younger generation have common interests and aims for the first time in German history.

This development indicates that there is a continually increasing and intellectually more and more far-reaching estrangement between young people in the German Democratic Republic and young people in the Federal Republic.

But there are fortunately related features in the conduct of young people in both parts of Germany as well as similarities in the aims of youth policy.

The leisure-time activities of young people either side of the Elbe-Werra line are similar. Fourteen to 25-year-olds are thought of as an unruly generation in both countries.

There are special laws to protect the young in both the GDR and the Federal Republic. Judges and psychologists in both parts of Germany are trying to come to terms with the problems of crime amongst the young.

Finally, eighteen-year-olds in both countries are allowed to vote and the younger generation is encouraged to meet the youth of other countries.

But the standpoint of young people in the GDR is completely different to that of the younger generation in the Federal Republic.

While not even a quarter of the young people in the Federal Republic have joined the various State, semi-private, political or Church organisations, sixty per cent of the younger generation in the GDR are members of the FDJ or the Thälmann Pioneers, a connected organisation.

In the Federal Republic participation in youth work fixed or even backed by the State plays no more than a subordinate role in a person's future life. In the GDR membership of the FDJ is practically an essential qualification for getting on in professional life.

The one astonishing thing is that young people in the GDR tried to go their own way, at least until the Berlin Wall was built. The high proportion of young people among refugees – as much as 49.4 per cent at times – offers clear proof of this.

This picture has admittedly changed since 1961. Young people in the GDR can no longer, to quote Lenin, vote with their feet. They have to come to terms with their regime if they do not want to commit political suicide.

In coming to terms they are however given a number of concessions. They have cheap holiday tours, "dances, games and music that," to quote the *Junge Generation* periodical, "are often more effective and lasting than a lecture".

These help to sweeten the pill of political aims for the young people. There is also the dangerous responsibility involved in FDJ campaigns against loafers in factories, in shooting practice in manoeuvres with the National People's Army and in the hunt for "frontier-breakers" in the border areas of the GDR.

Outwardly, there are certainly striking differences compared with young people in the Federal Republic. But these are only the exception and no more than the abuses of politically dictated youth work.

The more far-reaching and politically effective differences are to be found elsewhere. The age of majority begins at eighteen in the GDR, compared with 21 *in the Federal Republic.*

The number of young people on parliamentary committees is considerably higher in the GDR than here in the Federal Republic as they are determined by precise regulations. The FDJ sends 35 of its members into the GDR's People's Chamber as fully privileged deputies.

So as some comparison can be made, only 62 members of the Bundestag belong to the 25 to 40 age range while the figure for the People's Chamber is 230. This must result in young people in the GDR being more self-confident and showing this visibly.

Young people working in the GDR have an effective right of participation in decision-making to a certain extent and so far as social interests are concerned. In the Federal Republic young people are only given this right to a modest extent.

In the sphere of competition and increased productivity young people in the Federal Republic can rely on private or semi-private initiative.

In the GDR socialist youth collectives work according to the motto of "the collective is everything, the individual nothing", aim at considerable increases in productivity and often really achieve them. But the drawback of this system is that all individuality is forced right into the background.

On the other hand, young people in the GDR who accept the political guidelines or at least do not violate them can rise to the highest offices and positions that remain closed to their counterparts in the Federal Republic.

It is no rarity in the GDR to find young people scarcely 25 years old holding down jobs suchas factory director, mayor or headmaster.

To sum up, youth is a firmly outlined quantity in the political calculations of the Socialist Unity Party (SED. In the Federal Republic young people are influenced and persuaded from various sides and positions, though without being subject to compulsion. The future will show whether young people in the Federal Republic know how to pay this high price of freedom and personal independence.

But it seems equally uncertain, up to now at any rate, whether the SED's political calculations will bear fruit or whether Albert Norden's declaration of 1955 still applies: "The majority of young people are convinced that they can have no influence on the activities of the FDJ as everything is determined from above and as people expressing different views are looked upon and treated with mistrust."

A quarter of a century after the foundation of the FDJ the political lots for the favour and future of German youth in the GDR and the Federal Republic have still not been drawn.

Hans-Ulrich Engel

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 5 March 1971)



Bonn takes bold line on American radio stations



Attacks from East Bloc countries on American radio stations in Munich were blown up out of all proportion by scaremongers in this country.

The stations are *Radio Free Europe*, broadcasting to the Warsaw Pact countries, and *Radio Liberty*, beamed at the countries of the Soviet Union and broadcasting in their languages.

East Bloc régimes had seen an opportunity of making capital out of the forthcoming Olympic Games in Munich to attack these two stations which have always been a thorn in their flesh.

Obviously Moscow, Warsaw, Prague and all other communist capitals were unable to do anything about these stations or they would just be confirming the significance of the American broadcasts.

However, all that was needed was a press campaign or two to cast doubt on the future of the two American radio stations in Munich. Bonn has now dispelled all this uncertainty. In future the stations' broadcasting licences will not have to be renewed once a year, but will be extended automatically.

President Nixon has almost certainly played a part in this decision in that he has called for the financial support for *Radio Free Europe* and *Radio Liberty* to be provided without the help of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The Brandt government's bold decision not to take the easy way out and knuckle under to communist threats to boycott the Olympic Games next year deserves praise. Bonn has guaranteed the basic rights of people in this country to liberty and freedom of speech, to inform themselves and to inform other people.

But the greater the tact shown by the stations in question and the more they respect their host country, the greater will be the circle of people who value their purpose, namely to spread the truth.

(Münchner Merkur, 10 March 1971)

British court condemns Wei

A British High Court in West Berl sentenced 21-year-old male Ekkehard Weil to six years for attempted murder of a Russian s guarding the Soviet War Memorial in Berlin on 7 November 1970. The s was seriously injured.

In his final statement to the Court described the crime as politically m ed and necessary. The civil court, by the British military government using British legal procedure and Fe Republic law, was not swayed by argument when reaching its verdict.

Weil's immaturity and his pre clean record were taken into ac when judgement was passed. But p motivation was not admitted as e tenuating factor. That is to be welc Because of this the verdict in th case is particularly significant.

Anyone committing an illegal a fringes upon the laws. He must be t as any other law-breaker irrespecti whether he claims political motiv the offence.

The rule that political motivatio not be treated as an extenuating must of course apply to crimes com by extreme right-wingers as well extreme left and anarchists.

But it does seem necessary to this. After all, Luise Rinser, Hans H Kirst and Carl Amery were not a 1968 when they expressed their s the three-year sentences passed trial of the Frankfurt department arsonists.

At the time they wrote an open declaring that the case of ars question had been a politically moti act of ideology and they found sentence too harsh for young idealists.

A State with a democratic, parliam tarian constitution would be diggi own grave if it were to punish severely those acts of violence or punishable acts that were politically tivated. It would then be acc violence indirectly as a political and exposing the foundations upon it is based.

(DIE WELT, 10 March

Moscow is a master of deception

Continued from page 2

lacking the ideological disadvantage the party.

At the same time Moscow is specul not only with the confrontation betw the major parties in this country g in intensity but also with the poss of the Christian Democrats being into pro- and anti-Soviet factions.

The Soviet Union has been a master at confusion and division since Lenin's day. For equally lo Soviet leaders have been mov unreasoning fear lest their own ca split by imperialists, revisionists or ever.

This is why there have been rep appeals for unity – of the socialist of the working class, of the Party too is why attention has been diver the home front as soon as diffi within the socialist ranks have occ

One point nevertheless deserves b in mind. A withdrawal of this kind not by any stretch of the imagi involve surrender of positions al occupied. When the invasion of choslovakia cast the Soviet Union poor light the Kremlin waited unt signs seemed more favourable. dynamic of an ideologically-moti world power is not a short-term bu

Carl Gustav Stroh

(DIE WELT, 8 March 1

■ CRIME

The strange case of the kidnapping of Michael Luhmer

A blue BMW 2800 raced through Munich city centre in a snowstorm not even stopping at traffic lights as it headed for the autobahn to Nuremberg.

It was just after eight o'clock on the evening of Friday 26 Febuary and the driver was trying to shake off the police. *He* managed it too. His pursuers later said that if they had continued the chase after the fast BMW they would have been a danger to other road-users.

The driver of the BMW was travelling fast to save a child's life. He managed that too. Just in time for the popular press to print the four-inch banner headline "Saved" in their weekend editions.

Seven-year-old Michael Luhmer who had been kidnapped four days previously at a carnival procession in Niederbachem near Bonn smiled into the lenses of the press cameraman.

His smile was pale but at least he was in the arms of his mother who had been specially flown to Munich in a Luftwaffe plane.

The second case of kidnapping in the Federal Republic within two months ended for the time being with the return of the victim to his mother.

Two of his colleagues had already failed in their attempts to rescue Michael. The first had waited in vain with a ransom of 200,000 Marks late on a cold night at the place where the child was to be handed over.

The second had bravely, though in vain, offered himself and his secretary as hostages.

Munich lawyer Till Burger took star billing of the case. As a dramatic start to his self-advertisement he took a television crew to the spot where the boy had been handed over to him and posed before the camera with forefinger raised.

The Michael Luhmer case has revealed that the abominable crime of kidnapping has acquired new rules. It seems to be the latest practice of kidnappers not to blackmail rich parents but, as the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* stated, "local authorities, Federal states and tomorrow perhaps the central government, the taxpayers therefore, through the mediation of lawyers, newspaper editors or anyone who can be contacted by the offenders and be used as a middle-man when it comes to paying the cash."

It has also revealed a completely new relationship between lawyer, police and kidnappers.

58-year-old Till Burger is known to despise the police and at first declined to work with them at all. He did not only shake off the police spies as he travelled to meet the kidnappers.

His services had already begun beforehand. To efface any clues, he swopped the money he had received from the police (after they had noted the numbers) at his bank.

And after he had paid the kidnappers the ransom money and received the child in return at the Holledau motorway petrol station he claimed 25,000 Marks as commission which he would donate to *Zuflucht* (refuge), a prisoner's welfare association. The chairman and founder of this association is Till Burger.

At the beginning of the week the hero of the moment built up a great underground story. While 15,000 policemen and detectives in the Federal Republic were looking for the kidnappers, lawyer Till Burger was speaking on the telephone with one of them. He refused to tell the police the number but he did prove more talkative later with pressmen.

The popular *TZ* reported, "After half an hour the lawyer came out of the telephone booth as pale as death: "That's incredible. If that's true, it's terrible."

He then went on to outline what his mysterious conversation partner had told him. Aktion Riga is an organisation spread throughout the Federal Republic. It was founded after the Bund Deutscher Jugend was banned in 1956 for being neo-Nazi. Seventy per cent of the Army's Officer Academy in Hanover are reported to belong to the organisation.

"What surprised me was the man's calm," Till Burger said. "He mocked the methods used during police investigations and feels absolutely safe. He is either mad or indeed the member of a powerful organisation."

"He promised me that the group would pull off one more sensational job but would kidnap no more children," Burger continued. "He also told me that the organisation had kidnapped Stefan Arnold of Munich. The 25,000 Mark ransom money was, he claimed, paid into a special account for Stefan by a foreign lawyer working in Munich, Michael too would have money put aside for him."

Burger also described the man to the reporters: "He is athletic, young and of above-average intelligence. He likes children a lot. He gave Michael a bag full of toys. I could well imagine him as a young officer."

Burger wrestled with his conscience throughout the night and finally accepted a decision of the lawyers' court of honour that released him *from the obligation to* remain silent.

That was Monday at noon. Minutes later he gave the name of one of the kidnappers to a government agency and Interpol. The wanted man was Jörg-Hagen Roll, a salesman born in 1938 in Frankfurt on the Oder.

Roll was already wanted in Munich for stealing carpets worth 100,000 Marks. His lawyer in this case is the Till Burger organisation. The wanted man was arrested by the police 24 hours later.

When police officials of Munich's special kidnapping squad got to Jörg-Hagen Roll's flat the kidnapper had already fled. It was believed that he could have gone to Berlin or Hamburg.

Three hours beforehand – again as part of Till Burger's customer service – he had been warned that the police might be after him.

What the police had already suspected proved correct a short time later. Roll and his accomplices had also kidnapped five-year-old Stefan Arnold in Munich on 21 December 1970 before releasing him for a ransom of 25,000 Marks.

Stefan Arnold was brought to the scene together with his father. "He recognised the flat right away," police report. The main familiar feature was the picture of the "lady with a bare stomach" that Stefan mentioned after his release. The fact that it was a poster showing a scantily clad man is unimportant. "Roll has homosexual tendencies," the police state.

There is also an explanation for the mysterious engraving on the medallion that Michael was given by the kidnappers. "Odessa No 5312" read the inscription. "Odessa" is an abbreviation for the Organisation of Former SS Members. Roll's father was a member of the SS and was killed in the War. The number is the postal code of Niederbachem.

Everybody made something from the kidnapping of little Michael Luhmer. The kidnappers got 175,000 Marks, lawyer Till Burger is not prepared to return the 25,000 Marks donated by the kidnappers and Michael's parents have pocketed 4,000 *Marks from the periodical Quick* in return for their exclusive story.

Gert Kreyssig

(DIE ZEIT, 5 March 1971)

Lawyer Horst Mahler faces aiding attempted murder charge

The public prosecutor's indictment was against Ingrid Schubert and others but when the trial opened in Berlin Judge Geus yielded to the interest of the public and opened proceedings against Horst Mahler and others.

Lawyer Horst Mahler, 35, at one time famous for his defence of members of the extra-parliamentary opposition, had to stand trial for aiding and abetting attempted murder and for illegal possession of an offensive weapon.

Alongside him in the dock were two girls suspected of the attempted murder and aiding a prisoner to escape, 25-year-old Ingrid Schubert and nineteen-year-old Irene Görgens.

The indictment also states that Ulrike Meinhof, Peter Homann and Astrid Proll were involved in the escape last May of Andreas Baader, the department store arsonist.

This trial has attracted public interest for a number of reasons. Many people had forecast at the height of his career, when defending demonstrators and commune members, that Horst Mahler would end up on the other side of the fence.

Now he really is sitting in the dock in handcuffs, with thinning hair and straggly beard and wearing a black poloneck sweater. But it is in no way certain that this trial will lead to his conviction.

On the other hand suspicions against the Baader-Meinhof group have made headlines in the last few weeks. Three bank raids in Berlin at the same time – preliminary proceedings have been started against Mahler for this too – and a bank robbery in Kassel have even roused leading politicians in Bonn.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Minister of the Interior, declared them public enemies and called out top security agencies in the hunt for them.

Despite all this only journalists jostled for places in the court. There were still places to be had in the public gallery on the first day of the trial.

That must have been depressing for Mahler. As a defence lawyer he had always known how to use the anger felt by the extra-parliamentary opposition. As late as November 1968 the young rebels took to the street on Mahler's behalf and with their exact stone-throwing had the first real street battle with the police. Today they seem to be giving him the cold shoulder.

Even the Berlin *Extra-Dienst* only gave Mahler half-hearted support. People are now dissociating themselves from his revolutionary tactics. It is no longer violence that is in demand but strict Communist cadre discipline.

To guard against misunderstandings concerning this political feud among left-wing groups in Berlin, *Extra-Dienst* writes that no bourgeois journalist and no bourgeois judge should presume to reach a verdict on this clash.

But the trial is concerned with more than extremist intrigues. When Baader was freed a 62-year-old employee of the institute where he had been released on parole to study was critically injured when a bullet entered his liver. The court has to reach a verdict upon a purely criminal act.

Before the court it is not suspicion that counts, nor what has previously appeared in newspapers. The press has already found Mahler guilty. But defendant Mahler does not dispute this.

He remains silent, does not even answer questions concerning his identity and will continue to burden the public prosecutor with the task of proving his guilt. His hope is that the evidence will not be sufficient for the Berlin assize court to reach a verdict.

The two women defendants are in a different position. There are witnesses to testify against them. Their defending counsels will then have to try to unnerve the witnesses and sow the seeds of doubt everywhere.

Proceedings had to be stopped on the first day of the trial as the defence accused the judges and jury of being prejudiced. Because of tactical manoeuvres of this kind the verdict is not expected until the end of April.

Ulrich Eggestein

(CHRIST UND WELT, 5 March 1971)

Horst Mahler, bearded, greets his co-defendant Ingrid Schubert in the Berlin courtroom dock (Photo: AP)



■ CINEMA

Festival of David Griffith films presented in Darmstadt

It is all only sixty years old or less but there is as much trouble returning to this era as there would be to return to Elizabethan drama or the early eighteenth century novel."

This sentence is in the preface to a book dedicated to the memory of David Wark Griffith, the American director who first made almost 500 short films and then over thirty full-length features between *1908 and 1931*.

The attention that students at Darmstadt Technical College devoted to Griffith did not just illustrate this sentence. It was an act of commemoration.

There is no institute devoted to the study of film history in Hollywood. Like the automobile industry, cinemas are only interested in achieving a quick turnover of their products.

Consumers are not allowed to have a good memory. If they are to take new films seriously they must find the old ones as ridiculous as they appear today in the cinema or on television. Old films are shown as rough copies, speeded up and accompanied by gay music.

Only enthusiasts and a few survivors of those pioneer days, most of them in poverty and clutching to the memory of better days, have worked to get copies of silent films, to transfer them on to suitable celluloid and set up new projectors for the performing speeds of these old films.

Mr John Stone is such an enthusiast. In civilian life he is a curator in Washington but he is at present stationed in Hanau or *Aschaffenburg. He has had part of his* private film collection sent to him and enjoys showing soldiers old films during weekend leave.

Most of the copies shown at Darmstadt are his. Others came from the Bavarian television service. A few short films have been lent by the Cinemathek in West Berlin. These still have the German subtitles that they received when shown here before the First World War.

In all, there are eight and a half full-length Griffith films and ten shorts. A larger collection has never been seen in this country before.

People can get only an approximate idea of these films. It would be impossible and absurd to show them as they once were. But the false intimacy of the films must be destroyed. That happens to a certain extent when a film is projected at twelve, sixteen or eighteen frames a second instead of the 24 or 25 frames a second it is shown at in the cinema or on television.

It is only when the film runs at a slow speed that any idea can be gained of the tenderness in the gestures of Lillian Gish or the "small colonel" in *The Birth of a Nation* (1914) when she covers the face of his small sister with a Confederate banner as she sleeps.

People see the silent movies differently if they have some idea of the music that accompanied them. Bertolt Brecht once wrote about the music played in the cinemas of his native Augsburg in a film criticism.

But it takes a great deal of effort to reproduce this music. Mr Stone has done this by giving an old cinema pianist the score for Griffith's *Birth of a Nation* and making a tape of the result.

Our ideas about the black and white frames of old films are as erroneous as our ideas about the marble-like whiteness of Greek statues. When Griffith's main works were made between 1912 and *1925 only colour films were shown in the* United States.

A copy of *Intolerance* (1916), reconstructed by Mr Stone from a contemporary copy, could be seen in Darmstadt. The colour changes 207 times during the film. Black is replaced by a dark colour, usually sepia, but blue for night scenes and crimson for dramatic moments. There are no hard and fast rules. White is often given a pink or yellow hue.

Among the Babylonian scenes in *Intolerance* is one where Belshazzar's beloved sends her lover a white rose across the table in a small cradle drawn by two doves.

When this scene has been viewed in a hue that shimmers unnoticeably between the brown of the print and the yellow of the background, the viewer's opinion of films that are usually only seen in black and white changes.

The truest thing ever said about Griffith is still the sentence from James Agee's obituary written in 1948: "To see his work is to be a witness of the origin of all melody, of the first conscious use of the lever and the wheel, of the first inarticulate sounds to be pieced together into words and sentences, of the birth of an art."

The feeling that something is being born that previously did not exist is provided by the films themselves and not by the viewer's knowledge of the history of the cinema.

The birth of the United States is not only a central theme in *The Birth of a Nation* and *America* (1924) but an experience in the pictures in which their whole genealogy seems to be preserved such as Mathen Brady pictures of the American Civil War which Griffith includes in his reconstruction of the Battle of St Petersburg.

The method of fade-ins and fade-outs that he invented shows what happens when a person's eyes open to take in a landscape or a face for the first time and then close.

Before the "small colonel", Lillian Gish, later his wife, first appears, we see an oval miniature of her in the palm of his hand.

Equally tender and pregnant with expectation are Griffith's close-ups, especially close-ups of women such a[s] Pickford, Lillian and Dorothy Gis[h] Marsh, Miriam Cooper and B[...] Sweet.

Two of his actresses devoted memoirs to him – Linda Arvidson [...] *When the Movies Were Young* (192[.]) Lillian Gish in *The Movies, Mr G[riffith] and Me* (1969).

He did not invent the close-up [...] previously claimed. But he was the [...] person to make a camera look u[p] face. He rarely used close-ups for [...] rical purposes as Eisenstein did.

Eisenstein, in his essay *Dickens, Gr[iffith] and Us*, draws his readers' attenti[on] the fact that, while Americans spo[ke] close-ups, it was not until later [...] German and Russian producers [...] the term "Grossaufnahme".

This shows that the American [...] proach a face and look at it. "No[...] and not primarily to show and depic[t] rather to indicate, describe, evoke" [...] advance in the art of film-making [...] described by Eisenstein subjected [...] picture to language. *Enno Pat[...]*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 3 Marc[h])

Goethe letter sold for 48,000 Marks

A British dealer has just paid [...] Marks at J.A. Stargardt's auction in Marburg for a poem wr[itten in] Goethe's hand. The eight-line po[em] part of the *Suleika* section of the [*West*]*östlicher Divan* and its value was es[timat]ed at 25,000 Marks.

Other manuscripts too fetch pri[ces] higher than those estimated. Düss[eldorf's] Goethe Museum bought a letter b[earing] Goethe's signature and valued at [...] Marks for 5,200 Marks.

Another lot also went to Britai[n: a] letter written by Heinrich Heine du[ring his] tour of France fetched 4,700 Marks [...] estimated value had been 2,500 Marks.

The letters of Hugo von Hofmann[sthal] and Helene von Nostitz fetched 25[...] Marks instead of the 30,000 [...] expected. The letters of Rainer [...] Rilke to Rudi Nölke also sold at [...] the expected price, fetching 24,00[0 in]stead of 25,000 Marks.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 Februar[y])

Film distributors in this country face a mounting crisis

Constantin can do it. Along with the commercial products to be seen in the Federal Republic at present this clever distribution company is making good money out of the American underground which is becoming more and more overground.

"Constantin films are successful" is the advertising slogan of this film distributor, the largest in this country and the largest in Europe.

Success here is normally dismissed by the critical public as commercial philistinism. But now even those young film-makers like Alexander Kluge who are normally opposed to the established film firms are glad when Constantin accepts their works.

The young film-makers know as well as anyone that though Constantin films do not always prove successful with the public they are helped along by advertising and an ample number of guaranteed showings.

Constantin has a strong position on this country's cinema market and cinema owners are forced not only to take the films on paper but they must also show them.

Bertelsmann certainly makes more money from other branches of its wide-ranging business than film distribution. Consul Waldfried Barthel, the owner of Constantin, knew what he was doing when he repurchased all his firm's shares that were originally promised to the Bertelsmann organisation. This distribution is financially viable.

In this country's film distribution industry Constantin is admittedly the exception that proves the rule. This firm is the only large distributor in the Federal Republic.

Ilse Kubaschewski's formerly powerful Gloria Film is still flourishing but the firm has radically reduced the number of films it offers. Gloria no longer risks experiments either.

Inter Distribution did risk experiments that did not seem to be experiments as they had a commercial basis. But it recently went through a crisis period, though thanks to speedy financial action it seems once again to be in the black.

Some small distributors meet with success, others with the lack of it and therefore bankruptcy. Walter Kirchner's film distribution service operates surprisingly successfully.

Kirchner offers films from both home and abroad that have been seen on television or produced in cooperation with television companies. He brings back old films of both artistic and commercial interest. And what's more Kirchner shows the films in his own cinemas so that he is covered financially.

American distributors in this country are worried. MGM and United Artists have been able to show large profits but equally famous American firms like Universal and Paramount have merged in the Federal Republic to form one distribution firm. Rumours have it that this will not be the last merger of American firms in this country.

On the face of it, film distribution seems to be functioning well. But looking at it more closely, it does not. Some one hundred home-produced films (or coproductions between companies in the Federal Republic and abroad) and 300 to 400 foreign films wish to enter this country's cinema circuit every year.

But distributors just do not have the capacity for such numbers. The Americans rigorously prune their distribution programme, omitting anything that does not seem to be eighty per cent certain of financial success.

The few home-owned distribution firms also tread cautiously, though they do occasionally offer an art film. But there are films that the distributors refuse to take.

This weighs most heavily on modern films made by directors in the Federal Republic. Our young directors must be criticised for often making films without considering whether the public wi[ll want] to see them and for the fact th[at their] view of art is not always other peo[ple's] view.

Young producers here are now tend[ing] to form their own distribution service[s to] bring their films to the public. The[y are] using special cinemas that hope [for] commercial success from this go-it-[alone] scheme.

These experiments have been [...] successful in some cases but even [...] running the business themselves [...] young directors are finding difficul[ty] covering production costs.

Film distribution demands a tigh[t or]ganistion. If our young film-makers [...] incidentally are not all that you[ng ...] years) believe that they can do everyth[ing] on their own from the original idea [...] up to the distribution, they are wrong.

The artistically ambitious modern [...] in this country, especially works [...] present audiences with some difficu[lty] need organised distribution.

This could prove successful as lo[ng as] the modern film-makers are prepar[ed to] transfer the business side of thin[gs to] people who have some experience [...] film distribution industry, even [...] means specially setting up a new distr[ibu]tion company.

At present many modern films in [this] country have their premiere on televis[ion]. This is a solution but not the only [...] As far as distribution is concerned, [...] modern film industry too needs man[age]ment.

Klaus Hebecke[r]

(DIE WELT, 4 March 19[71])

■ THE ARTS

A translator's lot is not always a happy one

Translators are still reckoned to be auxiliary workers in the literary profession. A translator who is retained by a famous author as his sole translator can achieve fame and fortune, however.

The authorised translators of James Joyce and Federico Garcia Lorca will be the first to confirm this. However, those translators who are not patronised by a prolific and well-known author have to fight hard to earn their crust.

Even good, or even excellent, translators are still working today in the Federal Republic for hourly pay of no more than three Marks. So is this a profession for hard grafters?

The translators in question are of course literary translators. They are united in the Society of German Language Translators of Literary and Scientific Works.

This organisation is part of the Federal Republic Author's Society (VS) and is a professional association representing 345 members.

Among them are some famous names such as Heinrich Böll and Karl Dedecius, such as Carlo Schmid and Wolfgang Schadewaldt, such as Walter Jens and Eugen Helmle or Elmar Tophoven and Helmut M. Braem, the presidium of the Society.

It is guarenteed that the work of this society goes out to the world – there are 26 languages in the repertoire of the German-speaking Translators' Association (VDU).

For the publishing houses in this country this Association is a sacred cow, which, on the one hand, must be milked as cheaply as possible, and on the other hand must be kept in the best of health.

Word has got around that the standard of a translation has no small effect on the sales of a book and among readers for publishing houses there is a rumour that part of the success of Rowohlt Verlag's entertaining best-sellers is due to the excellence of the translations (which, moreover, have been paid for accordingly). So good translations and good translators are much in demand.

Nevertheless most of the contracts signed by translators give them no part in the success or failure of the book. They are given an overall fee which excludes any claims on further rights.

If a book runs to several editions, if it is a massive success as a paperback this is just too bad for the translator. However, the top men in the profession have joined publishing houses as advisers.

Generally speaking they have good contacts with the authors in the language they are translating from or to and are thus able to negotiate very favourable contracts. But these top-flight translators are the exception rather than the rule.

Much more common is the kind of contract that led to what is still the most curious case in the history of German translating. In the thirties Martin Beheim-Schwarzbach was paid a flat thousand Marks to translate an American novel into German. And that is still all he has received for it even though the book was *Gone With The Wind*!

"Now we have lost count of the number of copies of *Vom Winde verweht* that have been sold,

A similar fate befell the translator of the Angélique novels. He has been involved in a test-case trial for the past eleven years hoping to receive a reasonable payment for the best selling books he has translated. The trial continues and no end is yet in sight.

The VDU hopes to bring this sorry state of affairs to an end. For some time now talks have been in progress on the possibility of drawing up a contract that would set a pattern for the future to ensure that publishing houses pay a fair day's salary for a fair day's work.

Last year this projected norm for contracts was put before the Association of the Federal Republic Book Trade (Börsenverein).

Translators and their legal representative Wilhelm Nordemann have been working on the conditions laid down for cooperation with the *Verlag der Autoren* (the authors' publishing house).

These are conditions that will place a heavy extra burden on publishing houses in this country, but they will for the first time give translators a satisfactory contractual footing.

The main conditions are that the translator will receive a general payment for the first edition of a book (between 180 and 250 Marks for sixteen pages) and further agreements will be negotiated for further printings.

The translator's payment for the first edition of the book must be at least four per cent of the shop price and likewise for further printings.

An extra payment will be made to the translator for additional rights such as film, television and radio broadcasting, and newspaper serialisation rights. In such cases the fee for the translator should be the Utopian sum of 25 per cent of the gross earnings.

Furthermore the translator's rights for the publishing of works should be reconsidered. A translated work must be published at the latest twelve months after the manuscripts have been handed in. If the contract is broken off by mutual agreement the translator should be recompensed almost in full. The risks run by publishing houses with inexperienced translators would therefore be considerably increased.

It hardly needs to be stressed that these demands made by translators are a case of aiming at the heavens and hoping to hit the rooftops.

Nevertheless publishers must reckon with a great deal of thrust and parry if the translators make their claims with the backing of authors and drama translators.

Across the negotiating table from the *Börsenverein* will be the Federal Republic Authors' Society which also represents the interests of the translators.

An initial round of talks about normal contracts and uniform umbrella agreements between authors and translators on the one hand and publishers on the other is planned for this month.

Manfred Leier

(DIE WELT, 9 March 1971)

DGB offers to represent authors

The Federal Republic Authors' Association and the Confederation of Federal Republic Trades Unions (DGB) plan to work with closer cooperation in future. At their second round of talks in Düsseldorf representatives of both organisations discussed how they could plan cooperative ventures.

One of the items on the agenda was the plan for an *Industriegewerkschaft Kultur* (an arts trade union) that has been mooted before. According to Günter Stephan, a member of the DGB committee, opinions were fairly well agreed that, for the moment at least, there were no grounds for this type of organisation.

The DGB has promised authors that it will continue to support the interests of freelance writers. Joint consultations will be held on the concentration of the mass media and the consequences that are to be drawn from this.

Taking part in these talks were DGB Chairman Heinz O. Vetter, two committee members Günter Stephan and Franz Woschech as well as Dieter Lattmann, Dr Ingeborg Drewitz and Dr Reinhard Baumgart representing the Authors' Association.

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 3 March 1971)

(Photo: Archiv)

Oskar Kokoschka celebrates his 85th birthday in Geneva

Oskar Kokoschka has now reached a ripe old age, but like Pablo Picasso, his senior by five years the 85 year-old painter cannot give up painting. Kokoschka's recent works are as controversial as those of Igor Strawinsky and Paul Hindemith and it is even said of Picasso that he is not so good as he used to be!

It is the works of his younger and middle years that have sealed the claim to fame of Oskar Kokoschka.

This erstwhile aggressive Expressionist has come out from behind the barricades. Following his "frightfully modern" early paintings executed in Vienna he came into close contact with the masterpieces of the Venetians, and in particular Tintoretto and grew up into traditional painting at precisely the same time as his contemporaries were growing out of it!

In his best portraits and landscape paintings he has constructed a bridge from the Austrian Baroque to the art of the twentieth century.

It may be that his remarkably suggestive composition of colour tones, a coagulation of colours rather like a tapestry, devoid of almost all graphic elements forming figures and planes is petrified into a kind of mania. But the pictures from his middle period are intuitive reports on his frame of mind.

His landscapes and pictures of towns and cities in Europe, Africa and the Orient give a clear and individual sense of atmosphere and history, so real you can almost smell the air.

Oskar Kokoschka was born on 1 March 1886 at Pöchlarn on the Danube and spent his childhood in Vienna.

He studied at a school for graphic art and the first to benefit from his training were the *Wiener Werkstätten* which set him to work on decorative furniture paintings. He quickly came up in the world and his first decorative designs shocked the Viennese with their expressive boldness.

Greater shocks still were in store when the *first of his dramas, which were* produced at the same time, made their appearance.

The 21 year-old Kokoschka wrote among others the oft-quoted early Expressionist drama *Mörder, Hoffnung der Frauen* (Murder, Hope of Women), which was taken by Paul Hindemith as the libretto for his opera of the same name (1921). At the time this was another cause for protest.

"O.K." as he is known remained a poetic painter all along and illustrated his own literary works. Among his friends in those early days in Vienna was Karl Kraus, of whom O.K. painted a fascinating portrait.

Moving on to Berlin Kokoschka worked alongside Herwarth Walden on *Sturm* and in 1910 signed his first contract with the Paul Cassirer Gallery.

Nine years later he became a professor at the Dresden Academy, but he was such a turbulent character that he became impatient in this post and quit after five years.

The temperamental artist, stricken with wanderlust, spent many years roaming Europe and the Orient. He even set his easel up in the Sahara Desert.

During the Third Reich about four hundred of his pictures on public exhibition in Germany were removed and in 1938 he fled to Britain where he stayed until 1953 when he moved to Villeneuve on Lake Geneva. He is still living and working there today.

At Salzburg each summer young artists wishing to learn "how to see properly again" flocked to meet the distinguished artist.

Oskar Kokoschka is one of the few internationally recognised "concrete" painters. His paintings fetch high prices. For his 85th birthday an exhibition of numerous Kokoschka oil-paintings and water-colours has been arranged in Schloss Belvedere. These come from public and private collections.

H. Lehmann

(Kieler Nachrichten, 27 February 1971)

■ EDUCATION

Plans to coordinate education meet with little enthusiasm

Hopes for a national educational plan have just been given a serious damper. The aim of this plan is to coordinate for the first time all educational courses in all the Federal states in order to prevent further splintering of the education system and eliminate existing discrepancies.

But the opposite effect now threatens – the division of the education system into two, a Social Democratic and a Christian Democrat one.

The differences over educational reform seemed to have been overcome for the present. But on 1 March they sprang to life again with a violence that surprised all parties.

At a meeting of the educational planning commitee on this date the government urged the Federal states to decide unanimously for comprehensive education as the future school system in the Federal Republic.

The SPD-FDP coalition government looks upon comprehensive schooling as a reform worth pursuing. This would end the tripartite structure of the education system – and the separation of pupils into lower, middle and privileged social strata it is accused of – as all ten to sixteen-year-olds would go to the same school.

Supporters of comprehensive schooling also hope that bringing all pupils together and offering a new system of courses would guarantee equal opportunities more than the present system does.

They hope too that the courses would allow more personal treatment and enable decisions concerning a pupil's future school career to be adjusted without any psychological harm.

The extent to which these expectations would indeed be fulfilled by the comprehensive school, if at all, is disputed. Whatever the case, there is a lack of practical experience.

The education commission of this country's Educational Council put a temporary end to the long years of theoretical dispute in the summer of 1969 by suggesting the introduction of a extensive experimental programme to assess results.

The education ministers of the Federal states agreed to this proposal at the end of 1969. But the hope that differences could be freed of their ideological ballast proved unfounded.

The government move to establish comprehensive schools as a firm part of the national educational plan cannot be explained by new developments in the educational system.

Instead, the pressure to provide easily recognisable domestic reforms in any sphere seems to have become so strong that the comprehensive school ideologists were given free rein.

The move to fix the results of a scientific experiment from the very onset can only be explained by ideology.

That is the very thing that the Education Council wanted to avoid. They had little experience of the subject in 1969. There was only a handful of comprehensive schools in the Federal Republic.

Experiences abroad could not be applied here easily, especially as the enthusiasm for comprehensive schooling had begun to slacken noticeably both in Sweden and in individual parts of the Eastern Bloc. Comprehensive systems there had to be modified.

All three political parties strongly advocate a trend to closer cooperation in the education system. Hesitation must not be confused with procrastination. First practical endeavours demand caution.This applies to the problems, well-known to educationalists, of splitting children into small groups and it leads to the considerable difficulties involved in drawing up new syllabuses for the new courses.

Extraordinary effort is therefore needed here though success will not be seen at first. Referring to the subject of syllabus research, the government has often had to admit that it would be years before this could be undertaken.

Work on the educational plan has now come to be seen in a dubious light. The commission composed of representatives of both central government and the Federal states is proving to be an instrument that does not mediate between the Federal states on the one hand and the government on the other but splits the Federal states with the aid of the eleven votes that the government has in the commission and which always prove decisive.

This provokes reactions like that of the Baden-Württemberg representative who stated that, if need be, he and other delegates would disregard their obligations towards the central government.

The Education Ministers Conference demands unanimity on its decisions and resolutions. The politically legitimate and necessary polarisation has always been settled up to now, though laboriously and not always gloriously.

The government is now taking over the role of mediator between the Federal states. The move towards comprehensive schooling shows how carelessly this role can be carried out.

The Social Democrat representatives not only ignored the lack of educational and psychological experiences but also disregarded the financial aspects which, the Education Council has proved beyond any shadow of doubt, are immense.

This type of educational planning thus assumes an obviously declamatory character that hinders necessary reforms instead of encouraging them.

Klaus U. Ebmeyer

(CHRIST UND WELT, 5 March 1971)

School-leavers given inadequate career advice

School-leavers with the school-leaving certificate (Abitur) who do not to go on to study find themselves predicament as there are few chance them to embark upon career commensurate to their educational dard.

So far this problem has escaped attention and has not been viewed social problem. There are two reasons this. High school education cater clusively for those people wanting to university or college and nine cent of school-leavers do indeed go further study.

The second reason is that, thoug number of people with the Abi increasing at a fast rate, the figure per cent is still relatively low.

At present it is estimated that some 3,000 school-leavers of both go into industry directly after their school-leaving examinations.

As numbers are so low there is no to fear any great amount of stemming from the shortage of and career opportunities, from frust and social tension.

Things will however change if the of the Education Councill and the ment are adopted. Then some fifty cent of a school year will leave after twelve to thirteen years in sion of the new "Abitur II" and only of them will start at university away.

Twenty-five per cent of school yea be given a good education. But they not want to go on to study and demand suitable opportunities for training.

Expressing it in figures, every year army of some quarter of a million people with an education that is not usual must find jobs commensurate their talents.

A discussion at a series of lect arranged by the Baden-Württemberg tion of the Stifterverband für die sche Wissenschaft in Stuttgart showed how poorly prepared the Fe Republic was for the vast numbers expected in a few years time.

Dieter Barth, the business manager the Ettlinger Kreis, an association industrialists active in the education sphere, spoke of a survey conducted together with this country's Industr Institute.

Forty-nine firms of different sizes in various branches of industry covered by the poll. Non of these

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More facilities for dental students

The number of mathematics and science students at universities in the Federal Republic and West Berlin is to be doubled to 100,000 by 1975. There are also to be at least 10,000 places for dental students in five years time.

These proposals were agreed by the central government and the Federal states on the planning committee for university expansion at a meeting in Bonn to discuss the first preliminary plans for university building between 1972 and 1975.

A spokesman for the body said that the framework plan would be ready by 1 July. It will be mainly based on the recommendations the committee was given by the Council of Arts and Science at the end of January.

Hans Leussink, Minister of Education and Science, spoke to the planning committee and emphasised the need to rationalise planning, building and use.

Specifications dealing with space costs are to be included in the framework plan as a guide. All arts students are have forty square feet at their disposal.

Construction costs for a department biochemistry for example have estimated at 3,600 Marks per square metre according to the May 1970 index.

Plans to include the building of student hostels in the total costs have dropped. A working party set up by planning committee raised legal objections.

The planning committee has ruled that mathematics, the sciences, engineering and dentistry should be expanded coming years. This is based on the assumption that the demand for places these subjects will increase rapidly.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 3 March 1971)

■ MEDICINE

Secrets of middle-age examined in Hanover

Research is being carried out into one of the most important periods in a person's life – middle age. The mysteries of fifty-year-olds are to be revealed and the veil of suppositions, half-truths and unproved assumptions is to be drawn back.

This basic research of international importance is currently being carried out at Hanover Medical College. Dr Manfred Pflanz, Professor of Epidemiology and Social Medicine and head of the project, hopes to have finished his work and shone some light on to the subject in two years time. Some interesting details are already available.

"Ten years ago," Professor Pflanz says, "we would never have dared undertake work of this kind, despite considerable enthusiasm, as we lacked the technical prerequisites."

A lot of work has to be done in order to obtain a representative statement of scientific value on the central question of how healthy middle-aged people are and connected questions of sociological, psychological, medical and biological attitudes and the general behavioural pattern of fifty-year-olds.

More than one and a half million statements must be compared and fitted into context before conclusions can be drawn.

"There will also be special programmes, some of them brought from the United States as we do not want to start from the very beginning. And there will also be some highly efficient technical apparatus."

Specialising in nuclear and general medicine, Hanover Medical College's computer installation is one of the largest computers for medicine to be found in Europe.

The problem sounds simple for laymen but the expert will recognise the complications involved. "A fifty-year-old," Professor Pflanz explains, "already shows clearly signs of wear and tear. He is in a certain border-line situation as he is neither young nor old, neither healthy nor sick."

"It is proposed to establish the medical state of fifty-year-olds and precise information is to be gained about the heart, lungs, blood vessels, susceptibility to fatty degeneration, rheumatism and mental characteristics.

In 1969 and 1970 Professor Pflanz invited 2,000 fifty-year-old men and women from Hanover to take part in this test, which has been given financial support by this country's Research Community.

Seventy-two per cent turned up for the medical examination and 86 per cent agreed to being interviewed in their homes. The interviews and medical examinations resulted in a collection of more than one and a half million separate data.

Similar methods will be used in ten years time when the fifty-year-olds that have been examined or interviewed in the test reach sixty. Professor Pflanz does not rule out the possibility that a comparison of the two main tests could enable a system of personal forecasts to be developed, thus helping the middle-aged stay healthy.

If his medical data are included and processed in a programme yet to be developed, a fifty-year-old sufferer of chronic bronchitis, circulatory disorders or fatty degeneration who reaches the age of sixty could provide important information for the treatment of similar cases.

In practice this could mean that doctors would be able to help patients reach sixty in a better state of health than they might now.

Professor Pflanz has already met one phenomenon that cannot as yet be explained. He used practically the same methods as those in Hanover, though simpler in form, in 1965 in Ghana and Iran.

Again it was fifty-year-olds who were examined for circulatory complaints, flatulence of the lungs, fatty degeneration, blood pressure and similar symptoms.

The syndrome (high blood pressure, fatty degeneration, heart infarction) was much worse in these areas though there were few, if any, factors encouraging disease such as particularly great pollution of the environment through effluents as is found in the industrial districts of Europe or practices dangerous to health such as the misuse of alcohol, nicotine or nutrition.

The environmental conditions were far better there on many points. Air and water was pure, there was more physical exercise and food was simpler.

There was another surprise. Examinations of comparable persons in the relatively calm city of Hanover and hectic New York showed that the New Yorkers examined were less nervous.

The analysis of the life and health of fifty-year-olds planned in Hanover will pay special attention to blood pressure and fatty degeneration that is common among the middle-aged in Western Europe and disorders such as heart attacks that lead to an early death.

Is excessive weight as a result of fatty degeneration caused by hereditary factors, a lack of physical exercise, environmental influences or mental reasons?

Perhaps the cause of illness in fifty-year-olds is caused by deficient upbringing in their youth. This possibility is explored by questions concerning the early life of the persons interviewed: Did you have to clear your plate? Were you punished by being made to go without food and were you rewarded with sweets?

Present mental influences will be investigated through questions such as "Are you continually plagued by any specific fears?" or "Do you sometimes have a feeling of melancholy or depression that disturbs you in your everyday life?"

When the results of the one and a half million data are available and have been given expert interpretation, conclusions will be drawn in the form of recommendations.

From the results gained up to now Professor Pflanz is able to conclude one thing with a high degree of certainty – many fifty-year-olds do not behave correctly from the health aspect in their middle-age. The figure of fifty is not being used as half of one hundred but as the middle of a consciously lived life.

The Professor illustrates this statement with a typical example. A worker who had to do heavy manual work in his youth and therefore had to have a diet that was rich in calories no longer has to carry the same heavy loads today but his dietary habits have scarcely changed.

The statistical information gained by Professor Pflanz in Hanover has, he is convinced, a high degree of accuracy.

Close on 400 persons were tested and retested. A few month after their interviews or medical examinations they were sent questionnaires containing essentially the same questions though phrased differently.

Few discrepancies were discovered when results were processed. As far as the medical examinations are concerned, the Professor states, "One thing can be said for certain. Our measurements were exact."

The guinea-pigs were examined by 150 helpers who had spent a week getting acquainted systematically with the methods to be used. Here too there were comparative examinations that proved that the same data were obtained from a certain fifty-year-old irrespective of which helper had examined him.

The results to be gained in Hanover should, Professor Pflanz says, be scientifically consolidated by international comparisons so that possible sources of error can be eradicated.

Ernst Weger

(DER TAGESSPIEGEL, 27 February 1971)

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employed holders of the Abitur straight from school.

Nine firms refused to include these school-leavers in salesmanship courses as they could not offer adequate training and therefore feared discontent and a worsening of labour relations.

Six of the firms in specialised industries such as pharmaceutics and aviation would on the other hand only take holders of the Abitur on their salesmanship courses.

They had worked out their own training plans that often placed greater demands on those taking part than the official standards required. This could provide a good basis for the further expansion of professional opportunities for holders of the Abitur.

But industry does take a great risk here. Most of the firms state that eighty to one hundred per cent of Abitur holders do not stay with them after their training but go on to study.

On the other hand, this problem was not encountered by firms providing suitable positions for Abitur holders after the end of their training period.

It always occurred however where Abitur holders did not have any better chances of promotion than those people who had left secondary modern schools two ro three years earlier.

Firms in the technical sphere also organised special training courses for Abitur holders. These are of a high standard and train, for example, engineering assistants and mathematical and technical assistants for the chemical industry.

Industry's growing need of assistants can scarcely be satisfied despite the attractiveness of the training courses as these people are, as their name suggests, only assistants with little responsibility and few chances of promotion.

And that is the decisive factor. An Allensbach survey found that school-leavers thought an ideal job would be one that would give pleasure through out their working life, would have plenty of variety and allow independent work.

One way out of the dilemma is provided by the sandwich system, a combination of career training or work and university or college study.

Rolf Raddatz, director of the new Federal Institute for Career Training Research in Berlin, told the congress in Stuttgart that further development was also possible in the profession of assistant. The main thing, he said, was that a purposeful system of further training should be built up.

Georg Hartmut Altenmüller

(NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG, 2 March 1971)

Fat threatens every other person over forty

Every other person in the Federal Republic aged over forty is threatened by overweight. Diseases of the heart and circulation are the most common complaints caused or at least encouraged by increasing fatty degeneration.

This subject was discussed with the aid of a documentary film in Berlin's Congress Hall during European Heart Week which has just ended.

The belief that obesity had something to do with a disorder of the gland functions is no longer generally confirmed by the results of modern research into the subject.

If a person grows or remains fat he is simply having too much food, however little he may seem to be eating. The real cause is the disparity between the needs of the body and the appetite of the body's owner.

Children should be taught to eat in moderation but today they are still punished by being made to go hungry or rewarded with fattening sweets and candies.

The first layers of fat grow on a child together with the belief that over-eating is good and something worth aiming for.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 2 March 1971)

Epilepsy to be researched at Heidelberg

The Volkswagen Foundation has made a grant of about 680,000 Marks spread over a three-year period for examining a cross-section of the children of epileptic parents at Heidelberg University Hospital.

The examinations will take place in the department of paroxysmal diseases at the Neurological University Hospital under Professor Janz and in close cooperation with the paroxysmal out-patients' department of the Heidelberg University Children's Hospital under Professor Scheffner.

The statistical processing will be carried out by the Institute for Documentation, Information and Statistics of the Cancer Research Centre in Heidelberg.

Advice on hereditary biology will be given by Heidelberg University's department of anthropology and human genetics. The automatic analysis of the electro-encephalogram will be done by the department of neuro-physiology at the Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry based in Munich.

Epilepsy, once also called *morbus sacer* or holy disease, is a widespread complaint. It is estimated that there are 300,000 cases of chronic epilepsy in the Federal Republic with eight to ten times that number of persons having an increased susceptibility to the disease. This is manifested at least once during the person's life, mostly in childhood, as an epileptic fit.

As advances in pharmacotherapy have made more and more epileptics "fit for marriage", questions of hereditary factors and advice about this to epileptics have gained increasing importance in practice.

In recent years doctors have been able to differentiate between several forms of epilepsy. As electro-encephalograms too differentiate many of the specific features, it is now possible to examine more exactly the hereditary nature of specific features with the aid of electro-encephalography.

Annual examinations will be made to determine clinically and with the aid of electro-encephalograms the development of specific epileptic features and the results will be compared with those obtained from a control group that has undergone the same examinations.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 25 February 1971)

■ AGRICULTURE

Farmers up in arms against the bureaucrats in Brussels

DIE ZEIT

When 60,000 farmers marched on Bonn recently and demanded that producer prices for farm produce should be raised by ten per cent many housewives looked on in horror, thinking that this would, if granted, automatically mean an increase in shop prices by the same amount. This is not – or should I say, would not be – the case.

The gap between the prices paid to the producer or manufacturer and the prices paid to the retailer has in our luxury, consumer society, with its mania for packaging, taken on fantastic proportions.

While the price paid by the housewife for bread has all but doubled in the past twenty years the price farmers receive for grain has dropped by ten per cent.

A pamphlet distributed by farmers in Bavaria recently stated: "We farmers at present get 34 Pfennigs for a litre of milk, fourteen Pfennigs for an egg, 97 Pfennigs for a pound of pork, eighty Pfennigs per pound for chickens and five Pfennigs for a pound of potatoes."

Expenses in agriculture – wages to farm-workers, building costs, machinery and maintenance – are rising from year to year. No wonder farmers have been forced to take to the streets and protest. *They are not asking for more money for* greedy reasons, they are just eager not to be left out of the general upward trend in incomes. In brief they are being discriminated against and they are fed up with it.

Most townspeople do, in their minds at least, discriminate against the agricultural community. Most passers-by cast angry glares if they see a modest Opel or even a humble Volkswagen parked outside a farmhouse. Farmers, it seems, are not supposed to drive cars! Farmers should go on foot and produce their bread "with the sweat of thy brow".

These are the stark facts of what it means to work the land and feed the country: the hours are getting longer, the rewards are getting smaller.

In the government's agricultural report for 1970 it says that the gap between farmer's pay and that for a comparable job in industry is 29 per cent.

For the roughly three million farmers' children do not have equal educational opportunities and even the old-age benefit which was introduced in 1957 is not compulsory. This pension is worth 175 Marks a month to marrieds, 115 Marks for non-marrieds. At the moment more than 500,000 people are having to exist on this starvation pittance.

There are two reasons why our agricul*tural system has got into this catastrophic* state of affairs. The first is the unique nature of the industry, which gasps for breath only once a year. With our hectic and constantly changing economic setup the world of farming seems like an anachronism.

Furthermore in the farming profession production methods are all tried and tested and leave little room for innovation, while in industry many items are interchangeable. For instance the products of the petroleum industry can be used to make items as diverse as car chassis, stockings, swimming-pools and cutlery.

The second reason is based on ignorance, error, misapprehension or a false set of aims and is indicated by the three letters EEC. The originators of the European Economic Community intended that this organisation should achieve the aim of political integration in Europe – an aim that de Gaulle consistently frustrated. Nevertheless the Europeans decided one day in 1962 that of all things they would make agricultural policy the nucleus of integration.

It is important to try to imagine what this signifies. The branch of the economy that lagged far behind was intended to be the motive force that drove the economy on to a stage that was far in advance of the whole organisation. What an idea!

In no other sector are climatic and regional variants of such decisive significance as in agriculture and yet the idea was that a uniformly organised farm-produce market should be created from Flensburg to Sicily in order to demonstrate that a supra-national Europe is possible.

Not content with this it was decided that to give a pretence of reality to the fictitious idea of an agriculturel union national agricultural systems should be switched to one unit of currency, the so-called unit of calculation, dollar parity.

This means that when the Federal Republic revalues and for all economic transactions the dollar is only worth 3.60 Marks agriculture goes on reckoning with a four-Mark dollar.

Since then all experts have realised that the communal currency can only be the finishing touch and that first of all costs and prices have got to be levelled out and tax and social services systems in the various countries of Europe must be harmonised. But for some reason agriculture was chosen as the point of departure.

Why? God only knows! Perhaps the French who have so far had the greatest benefit of this system were well aware what they were up to. The Federal Republic representatives certainly were not.

In January 1962 the Council of Ministers passed six decrees for the gradual introduction of communal market regulations. In the course of the next few years these came into force and since 1967 there has been a system of minimum prices for the whole area of the European Economic Community and uniform powers of intervention.

There is an incredibly complicated system of fixed prices, basic prices, price-thresholds, intervention prices and orientation prices. There are price adjustments and supplementary price adjustments as well as licences. Assistance on a national footing and subsidies from individual countries are no longer permitted.

Since farming like other sectors of the economy only offers an opportunity for progress as long as productivity rises EEC agricultural policy has concentrated on forcing uneconomic holdings into bankruptcy.

This was done on a grand scale. Each year 100,000 farm workers in the Federal Republic were forced to leave the land and seek employment elsewhere. In 1970 the figure was as high as 150,000. In the past twenty years one third of the farms in operation in 1950 have been given up and two-thirds of farm workers (2.1 million) have left for other jobs.

There are reasonable grounds for doubt whether this process of selectivity has given the optimum results. The most efficient farmers followed advice and made their holdings more specialised with large-scale investments. A number of them are now having to pay back huge sums in interest and are going broke, whereas those who carried on in the same style as their grandfathers before them have to a large extent avoided the crunch.

This painful process of "healthy shrinking" could only be fobbed off on fa[rmers] and farm workers who are used to b[ear] the slings and arrows of outr[ageous] fortune. If the authorities had tried [the] same tactics on factory workers [they] might not have survived to tell the tale.

In Brussels it was possible to con[clude] an agreement on a prices policy and prices that were fixed in 1968 [have] simply not been altered while exp[enses] and overheads have rocketed nation[ally].

It is a consolation that this governme[nt] has at least worked on social we[lfare] measures in this process of struc[tural] change and has not just left things to [take] their own course. In 1969 fina[ncial] compensation for leaving the land [was] introduced, assistance was offered [to] farmers who were quitting to learn [a] trade and now for the first time [com]pulsory sickness insurance is bei[ng in]troduced for farmers and their de[pen]dents.

For years the Federal Republic has [had] to bear the main burden of this integ[rated] agricultural policy and unjustly so, [for] the overproduction which dogs the [EEC] and which must be got rid of is not [this] country's fault but to a great extent [the] other five's.

Foolish system

The absurd system of a unified m[one]tary policy has led to a kind of land[slide] following France's devaluation and [our] revaluation with France's superfl[uous butter] flooding into this country.

Thus our butter mountain grew, [as] cheap French butter ousted ours [from] the market. Finally in 1970 wh[en a] subsidy was paid for the slaughte[r of] milchcows 150,000 were killed off in [this] country while the other five EEC mem[bers] only disposed of 84,000 amo[ng] them, and The Netherlands even incre[as]ed its herds by two per cent.

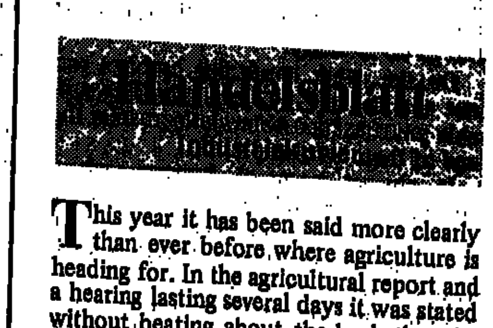
Similarly with pigs. In a week tw[o] per cent of all pork sold in this cou[ntry] came from Belgium and The Netherla[nds] while farmers in Holstein have b[een] trying for months to sell their pigs.

What can be done in this [sorry] situation? This despairing question [was] answered recently by an expert at [an] agricultural hearing in Bonn. He said [that] the nonsensical aspects must be "minimis[ed]". Perhaps he should have added that the potential gains should be maximised. That is to say we must now demand of our partners in the EEC firm agreement on the currency union. If they do not approve of this the system of "gre[en] dollars" must be abolished and what [is] more as quickly as possible.

Countess Marion Dönhoff

(DIE ZEIT, 5 March 1971)

Bitter harvest for farmers



This year it has been said more clearly than ever before where agriculture is heading for. In the agricultural report and a hearing lasting several days it was stated without beating about the bush that the amount of money that could be made on the land in ten years time would only be enough to give one million or at the most 1,1 million farmers a decent living.

Today there are still twice as many as this employed in the agricultural sector of the economy. Their incomes have fallen behind those of other professions. With improvements to the structure of [the] industry half as many people could [keep] up the level of agricultural production.

No group of people likes to hear that [it] is fifty per cent superfluous and [the] farmers are no exception to the rule. [And] the Farmer's Association has a differ[ent] formula for giving the 2.2 million farm[ers] a living wage – higher prices!

But repeating and repeating this [de]mand does not make the idea any mo[re] realistic. Energy and money must [be] spent on teaching farmer's sons anoth[er] trade, while smallholdings must in futu[re] be considered sources of *extra* incom[e] but not a means of earning a living wa[ge]. No lasting solution to the agricultur[al] problem will be provided by highe[r] prices.

(Handelsblatt, 26 February 1971)

BUSINESS

Rag trade needs courage to face fierce competition

Will the all-important battle between hot pants and maxi-skirts soon [co]me to a decisive conclusion? It is [ess]ential for the textile industry to know [thi]s because with the whims of fashion [be]ing what they are this branch of the [ec]onomy has been plagued with uncer[ta]inty since last year.

Both the sales and the manufacturing [si]de are keen to know where the pend[ul]um will stop swinging. Then and only [th]en will the textile industry know whether the increase in orders of 4.8 per cent which came in the last three months of 1970 really is the end of the depres[s]ion.

On the other hand this might just have been an intermediate spurt in incoming orders which is not rare in the textile industry.

More information is necessary for a clear view of the way ahead. The amount of material at present in stock has to be known and accurate assessments of this are not on hand at present.

Textile fairs in Frankfurt and now in Cologne have been somewhat encouraging and, despite the rather tame end-of-winter sales, trading in January and probably in February too has been brisker.

Nevertheless a question mark hangs over the industry and this will not clear off till well into the spring. At that time the clothes-buying public will make important decisions.

The patterns set by the Igedo fair in Düsseldorf may at least give some guide to the future.

But the attitudes that can be expected from the general public, the consumers, are not yet clear. Will gross incomes rise by the predicted ten per cent? And will the rag trade be spared a recession even in the second half of the year or will the public be cautious and save their money?

All these doubts must be cleared up before the favourable estimates for the future of the textiles industry come true. *It* has been predicted that this year there could be an increase in turnover in the rag trade of between five and seven per cent.

In 1970 the nominal increase was four per cent. But last year the wholesale prices of textiles increased by only 1.5 per cent, which did not please nor help the manufacturers who were plagued with rising overheads.

And there does not seem to be any indication at the moment that the pressure on prices which arises from keener competition in the Federal Republic and other countries that export to this country will be alleviated to any great extent.

This pressure on prices is also caused by the tendency of the rag trade to deal in price thresholds, that is to say, to take the attitude that suits for everyday wear should not cost more than a specified sum. As manufacturing costs rise prices are not pushed up but every attempt is made to keep products at the "threshold" price.

All in all the price barriers for the textile industry should be high enough for the estimate of nominal turnover to have some real value.

The dreadful gap between overheads and yield has without doubt put many a textile company in the red. But since the possible way out of increased prices now seems to barred the only alternative is to make economies. In many cases this unfortunately involves cutting investments.

Such impositions hit the rag trade hard, since in the past it has managed to keep pace with the rapid progress of technology and with an exemplary increase in productivity has managed for the most part to offset the fact that wages are lower and production costs cheaper in other countries.

Precisely this rise in productivity has been an essential factor for the rag trade facing the future boldly and not losing courage. In the machinery industry for instance there are gloomy comments because the textile industry is their second-best customer and the rag trade's need to introduce economies is a bad sign.

A glance at commerce and trade in the future would bring two problem sectors to the attention which are closely allied. The more integration in the European Economic Community progresses the more it is essential to introduce a uniform importation policy for the textile industry.

It is well known that other countries in the EEC have found ways of protecting themselves against imports at cut prices. As a result of this there has for some years been a tendency for other EEC countries to aim their cheap clothing at the Federal Republic.

France has even erected barriers against the re-exportation of such goods from the Federal Republic in order to protect its own rag trade from a potential viable competitor.

Manufacturers in this country are of course not happy about this and have spoken out in favour of "sharing the burden equally throughout the EEC", the calculations of this being based for instance on populations of the various EEC countries. A regulation of this kind has a chance of success in Brussels.

However, there is no move in Brussels, as in other industrial countries, for the rag trade to make exceptions on customs preferences for developing countries which would also cause a drain of items kept cheap by low wage bills into the EEC.

Aid by means of customs tariffs should at least be differentiated according to clothing manufacturers in the European Economic Community. A distinction should be made between suppliers that could come out in competition, such as Hong Kong, and other overseas countries whose textile and clothing industries need a helping hand.

This would also be to the benefit of the developing countries themselves.

The closer we come to an "equal share of the burden" among the Common Market countries the more distinct the protective measures in Italy and France are shown up.

There seems to be a chance for the suggestions made in Brussels to introduce rationalisation and conversion subsidies making them conform to the Treaty of Rome by dubbing them as "furtherance of compatibility". Even if public funds of this kind are used in this manner the Federal Republic rag trade will be left behind again since it scarcely reckoned with such subsidies.

Furthermore experience has shown us that there is a danger that these funds would flow back into the tide of productivity and just contribute to the falsification of competitiveness.

And finally on the question of sharing the burden of cheap imports there is the round of discussions of the EEC Commission with the United States on the possibility of taking over a certain amount of Japanese exports that are shut out of America.

On this score too it is an important point to note whether a flood of cheap goods will be hitting the EEC as a whole or whether it will be concentrated on the Federal Republic.

From the point of view of trading policies it can be seen that the "environmental conditions" of the textile industry cannot be mastered simply. This is all the more reason for companies to seek the optimum solution both in investments in equipment and in their size. Both of these spheres obviously overlap.

The fact that technical equipment in this country is among the best in the world is not only recognised by observers abroad time again but is highlighted by the massive increase in productivity in recent years.

Developments are still being made and new processes introduced. This involves further automation and decidedly larger companies, particularly in the manufacturing of raw materials and production of *staple commodities. Cotton spinners* and weavers will have to come to terms with the necessity for structural changes.

There is some doubt whether there will be a general trend in the rag trade towards a few, multinational extremely powerful textile concerns and whether this must happen, as Dr Peter Adolff mooted recently.

Large companies have an advantage in the buying department, there possibilities for financing themselves and influencing the marked, and particularly all the advantages of mass production. Smaller companies are more flexible in adjusting to fashions, which are a protection against imported competition and they can guarantee fast delivery and exploit niches in the market.

It seems probable that the fewer-and-larger process of the past few years will continue and perhaps accelerate. Since 1965 the number of textile companies has decreased from 4,096 to 3,615. In 1970 alone ninety companies closed down, but in 1968 it was as many as 169. Future developments are likely to bring problems affecting smaller textile companies greatly, but not the middle sized concerns with 500 to 800 employees and a turnover of between 30 and 50 million Marks which have in the past few years proved to be the most viable. Even the major textile concerns are not protected from the difficulties of this branch, not even if they have a say in the retail trade.

Wolfram Zürbig

(Handelsblatt, 1 March 1971)

Most people put it away for a rainy day

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Putting it away for a rainy day, is the reason given by most people in this country for saving money, according to a survey conducted by the Federal Statistics Office. People were asked what were their motives for saving money, their aims in saving it and their pre*ferences in forms of saving.*

The second most common reason for saving is to have money for old age. Third, fourth and fifth places are taken up by more specific aims such as for a holiday, to acquire furniture, consumer goods or jewellery and to buy a house or a plot of land.

These were all suggestions put forward by the survey organisers, but many of those questioned declared that none of them was the reason for their saving. Many simply said that they saved because they had more money than they needed to run the home.

Only a very few said they were building up a big bank balance for motives of pride or personal gain.

The Statistics Office survey showed that to a large extent the sort of answers given to the question why people saved depended on their position in society the age of the head of the houschold and how high the average income in the household was, as well as the type of accommodation.

A further question asked in this survey was how much people would save if their income were increased by ten per cent. *Sixty out of a hundred families said they* would save some or all of this money. Of those who spoke of savings 41 per cent said they would save the whole ten per cent, 43 per cent said they would save a half to three-quarters and only sixteen per cent could save about one quarter.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 March 1971)

International trade fair in Frankfurt

A grill that can be operated by burning old newspapers and which will cook sausages and steaks crispy and brown in minutes is one of the many brilliant innovations at the International Frankfurt Fair, which opened recently and is aimed to attract businessmen from all over the world.

There are no less than 2,628 exhibitors including 685 foreign firms from thirty-six different countries at Frankfurt to show off their produce for the consumer market.

This grill, which can be folded away so small that it would fit into a briefcase and taken to any picnic site, is far from being the only sensation in Frankfurt.

There is also the fold-away mini-hat which can be kept in jacket or trousers pockets and brought out when the wind and rains come.

The "table in your pocket" is not only meant to intrigue conjurers, but also people who have little space to spare. This table can be packed away in a small case and when needed can be set up by just a few simple movements.

Now windows and shoes can be polished with thousand-Mark notes – an inventive importer is offering a "fully washable and fluff-free cloth" carrying the design of a thousand-Mark note, but this will not help the housewife balance her budget; the note is only printed on one side and the cloth is at 29 x 45 centimetres oversized, so not even the most short-sighted shopkeeper would accept it!

Candle wicks always had the irritating habit of breaking off or becoming too long, but now an inventive Rhinelander has come up with the first adjustable candle. The wick can be regulated giving a flame of a different height just like a cigarette lighter.

Anyone who thinks that the last word has been said in the line of ballpens is mistaken. The pens that were used by the lunarnauts are now to be put on the open market and are expected to be a big hit. This ballpen, we are promised, goes on writing whatever the temperature, underwater and upside down.

Carrying nets for Bonzo and Fido are also on show. These are strong and cannot be torn by canine teeth. They are guaranteed to transport dogs safely and comfortably.

If anyone fancies these articles but does not fancy having to pay for them he had better watch out! Light-fingered visitors to supermarkets are bound to be caught. A new rotating watching-eye is also on show and with its exchangeable lenses and six mirrors it can scan the furthest corner of a supermarket and produce crystal-clear pictures.

A. Bechtold

(Münchner Merkur, 27 February 1971)

■ TECHNOLOGY

Cabin taxis – a future means of transport



An artist's impression of cabin taxis in use (Photo: ...)

Six to eight metres overhead the cabin taxi, cat for short, glides noiselessly through the streets of the dormitory suburb along concrete track.

Every 300 metres or so there is a stop, a small siding. At the stop there is a machine the size of a cigarette machine. You put your money in and out comes a kind of cheque card with instructions in electromagnetic lettering.

There is also a button. When you press it a three-seater plastic cab 1.50 metres wide draws up. As soon as the card has been placed in the slot provided the sliding doors of the cab open.

The card having programmed the cab all that the passengers need to do is to press the button inside the cab and off it zooms in the direction of the programmed destination.

Everything is fully automatic. There are no conductors, no one except the occasional inspector to explain the secrets of this newfangled mode of transport to old ladies and help younger ones stow away prams and the like.

Powered by electric motors the cab drives without stopping to the programmed destination. There are no stops and there is no changing. The destination is electronically checked at every stop until the right one is reached.

Having made its way from start to finish at a speed of thirty kilometres an hour (roughly 20 mph), as against the fifteen that trams and buses at best manage nowadays, the cab pulls into the siding and waits for the next call on its services.

Since everything is fully automatic the cabin taxi runs day and night seven days a week.

Safe travel to and from the Moon would seem, however, to be a more likely proposition than a solution to local transport problems. As the roads have long been congested most of the day the answer must be to use other levels and go either above or below ground.

An Underground costs roughly forty million Marks a kilometre to build, though, and is consequently only an economic proposition in cities with a population of several hundred thousand.

Other solutions to the problem must be found for medium-sized towns and for commuters between dormitory suburbs and the city. Computerised cabs are the answer, their inventors and R & D men feel.

Not far away from Wuppertal, the conglomeration of towns along a tributary of the Ruhr where seventy years ago the first monorail was built (and despite its defects is still a mainstay of public transport in the city and not just a tourist attraction), the first pilot project for cabin taxis is under development.

Far from discouraged by the more or less unsuccessful Alweg monorail project undertaken by Krupp's in Cologne, Demag and Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm are building a 700-metre elliptical trial section of cabin taxi track at Wetter on the Ruhr.

It is scheduled for completion by the end of 1972 and over the following eighteen months the engineers in Wetter and Ottobrunn, near Munich, hope to gain sufficient experience to launch cabin taxi networks in Freiburg and the Munich suburb of Perlach.

The technical problems of the project, developed separately in Wetter and Ottobrunn in 1969 and merged last year at the behest of the Federal Ministry of Transport, seem by and large to have been solved.

The remaining snags, and they are not inconsiderable, are more or less organisational but are, of course, closely linked with running-costs and thus with the fares that will have to be charged.

The yardstick of any transport system is the success it has in coping with morning and afternoon rush-hour traffic. If a single passenger were to occupy every cab because of the length of time before two or three passengers with the destination materialised the system not be able to cope with rush-hour despite a theoretical capacity of cabs per track per hour.

Cabs would not be inexpensive. The research team in Wetter are th in terms of a fare of thirty pf kilometre. If someone travell kilometres to and from work ev he would be spending three Mark on fares.

If, to crown it all, cabs were third full during the rush hour would be no better than it is alread conference in Wetter both the engineers and public transport sp admitted that they had not giv point much thought as yet, wanted to clear up technical hitch

The pilot scheme in Wetter is four to five million Marks, a s money that the firms concerned doubt raise themselves.

Were Freiburg city council to favour of covering the 10.6 kilo between the city centre and dormitory suburb of Landwasser, under construction, by cabin taxi would have to invest somewhere region of fifty million marks.

With 217 cabs on each track the could convey ten million passe year but fifty million Marks full-scale experiment is a lot of and probably too much for resources.

Yet if the Federal governm allocate far larger sums of mo the development of new air airbus, for instance – there ough cash available for public tr problems, which are definitely important than the prospect of half an hour off the flight time Düsseldorf and Munich.

Opinions now differ as to wh thought of the cabway idea. Dü engineer Hugo Heidt patented something similar in autumn 19 offered his services to the Minist Transport and Science from 1957, Bölkow and Demag from 1967 on.

Now that Bölkow and Demag disclosed details of the work on they have been engaged since 19 propose to build a pilot project feels he has been robbed of his idea.

At Cologne's administrative cour instituted proceedings against Tr Minister Leber and Science Leussink for affording the major preferential treatment.

Heidt, Bölkow comment, is kno a serious and reliable man but pro this kind are under develo everywhere and the work can carried out by large firms. So fa has merely been discussion possibility of a government grant the cost of building the pilot track.

Ernst B...

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1 Ma...)

The Bundespost introduces letter sorting by computer

With labour in short supply the Bundespost have no alternative but to resort increasingly to automation. Sorting is one of the operations that are gradually to be automated.

Sorting only interests the man in the street when letters are delayed but in point of fact it is one of the trouble spots of the entire postal system.

Some thirty million letters a day are posted and have to be distributed to 24,000 localities. The work load is not spread evenly throughout the day; it overflows between five and nine in the evening and three and six in the morning.

This bottleneck is growing steadily worse, largely because sorting into bundles for transport by rail or air is an operation that is still carried out by an army of operatives as in days gone by.

The destination is first roughed out according to the postal code number, then narrowed down as it passes through more and more hands before finally landing in the right pigeonhole.

The Post Office now has the answer. In June or July two automatic sorting units capable of handling nearly 50,000 letters an hour without the aid of the human hand will start work in Osnabrück.

Similar devices have been tested and put to use over the last five years at post offices in Pforzheim, Wiesbaden, Bochum and Brunswick. Osnabrück's is, of course, the most up-to-the-minute technically.

Incoming and outgoing post first is assembled at fifteen coding counters where specially trained operatives type out strange codes – five vertical yellow lines, for instance – on each letter.

On outgoing post the code represents the postal code number, on ingoing post letters of the street name.

The letter then passes into the sorting machine which by means of unerring electronic eyes reads the code and guides the letter through a maze of belts. A process computer that masterminds the whole operation ensures with 'stoic unconcern' that a love letter from Osnabrück finds its way to the Munich pigeonhole in a matter of seconds.

At a cost of several million Marks the Osnabrück unit does the work of forty to fifty sorters. Five smaller offices have been the first to benefit from the new equipment for two reasons:

– the post office buildings have been ideally suited for housing the unit

– and any technical hitches that occur will not create as much havoc as they would in really large sorting offices.

It will be some time before Hanover, for instance, has automatic sorting. West Berlin, on the other hand, is at the top of the list – largely for political reasons.

The people of Osnabrück indeed owe it to Berlin that they are the first to use twin pillar boxes. The sorting unit can be used more rationally if local letters are pre-sorted. They can be dealt with later.

Berlin has a considerable amount of local post (almost seventy per cent of the total) and was a little sceptical as to whether the general public would pay any attention to the two slots.

So Osnabrück, it was decided, would be the guinea pig. Results are satisfactory. Only three or four per cent of letters posted are put in the wrong part of the box.

Coding is the most intriguing feature of the whole procedure and also the point at which further automation might prove possible. Addresses cannot as yet be deciphered by machine. There are enough handwritten addresses that even the practised eye can hardly decipher. But the Post Office is working on the idea.

In five to ten years' time, the pundits reckon, the new coding devices will be on the scrap heap, superseded by electronic reading devices that are already under development.

Standardisation – of envelope weights, for instance – will of course be essential and the Post Office may have to introduce standard envelopes on which letter-writers tick boxes rather than write their own addresses.

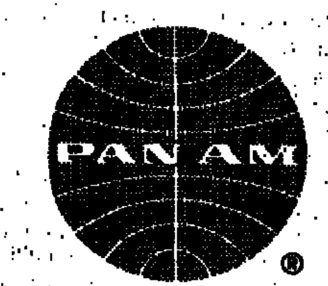
This country is now one of the world's leaders in automated sorting. Elsewhere units have been installed only in the United States and a number of Italian cities.

One unit has been supplied from this country to the Soviet Union and has disappeared behind the Iron Curtain. Stamp collectors do say, though, that coded letters from the Soviet Union have been sighted.

With all this progress the Post Office has yet to abolish one familiar figure of everyday folklore, though. Nor does it want to. The postman on his daily round will be with us for some time to come.

Hans-Uwe Haertel

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 February 1971)





■ OUR WORLD

Career women find it hard going to compete with men

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG
Industriekurier

What is admired in men is frowned upon if women try to do it. A man who carves out a career for himself is generally thought of as a man of stature. But it is not so easy to say the same of a woman, unless she is in showbusiness, pursues one of the specifically female professions or is a woman who has reached the stature of, for example, Health Minister Käte Strobel. Logical thinking, qualities of leadership, application, creativity and business sense are all decried in women.

There are at the present 25,000 in this country operating businesses that employ more than ten workers and with an annual turnover exceeding one million Marks, according to a 1969 needlework industry report. Needlework is the most favoured leisuretime occupation of women in this country. Women's magazines, television and advertising all go on about a better world in which women are mainly concerned with the kitchen, the church and the children.

With women being devoted to these three aspects it is something of a wonder that 1.9 per cent of all positions of leadership are held down by women. But there are limits. There are hardly any women in this country who earn as employees of a firm more than 40,000 Marks annually.

Women have mainly broken into two departments in business and industry that have been men's preserves – personnel and finance departments, and then only to the extent of seven per cent. There are on occasions women who work as assistant directors. To make the situation clearer it must be added that the jobs in question are ones where supply is greater than demand. There are chances only in professions suffering from staff shortages. And this fact must be considered together with the fact that there are more women than men in this country.

Women in executive positions in this country earn 8,000 Marks less on average than their male colleagues. Without question the same job is paid at a different rate and men have a better chance of promotion. For women, speaking in the main, there are limitations as to how far they can climb the ladder.

Unlike in America there are no women in the Federal Republic sitting on the governing boards of companies and only a few sitting on the boards of directors.

Dr. Lore Henkel, a member of the Preussag board, said in an interview: "One has to do one's best not only in the big things but also in small matters."

Women are looked upon critically. Qualifications alone are not enough. Tact is required to make oneself heard. Liz Hiller, an editor in the almost totally male-staffed magazine *Eltern*, commented: "One has to have studied at least seven semesters of psychology and four of law so as not to be pushed aside by men."

Women have a difficult time of it. But it is also true that they are not career conscious. Why is that? Opinion polls taken all over the country among men and women show that it is the commonly held view that politics and the economic fields are spheres in which men operate exclusively.

A quote from Friedrich Schiller comes to mind: "The man goes out into the cruel world ... and the tender woman holds sway at home. The attitude of the male to the female, confirmed for centuries by the Church and by the State, is applicable to the world of work also. Arthur Schopenhauer's definition of women as 'the second sex' is just as apposite today. The question is no longer asked if the women is a human being. What a long way we have come."

A woman is holding down every third job in this country. Without exception they are paid less than a man doing the same job. In 1968 the Confederation of Trade Unions in this country carried out a survey and discovered that 36 per cent of women are the main family breadwinner.

Women do not yet comprehend fully what power they represent – that of a labour force or a consumer market. Until this confusion is cleared away women will be at a disadvantage. One thing is sure – in firms and concerns where a majority of women are employed only a few men are ever voted on to the workers' council.

In connection with these observations it is worth pointing out that only 28 per cent of women complain about their neglect. Women resist doing this.

If a close look is taken of public services, the trade unions or even central government isolated concentrations of women in top jobs are encountered. Examples of this are Dr Katharina Focke, a State Secretary who has had a lightning career to the top, and State Secretary Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, who has proven the former Health Minister Dr Elisabeth Schwarzhaupt right. She said that women had to work twice as hard as men in order to get half as far.

Total involvement, making provisions for a career are not expected from women, and when encountered are decried on all sides. Remarks such as "eaten away with ambition", or "blue stocking", or "no man wants her" are commonly heard.

Women could contribute a great deal to the economy of this country. In 1954 more than 1,200 businesswomen formed an association to look after their interests.

Jasmin, the twice monthly magazine for married couples, seized upon this topic gratefully. The magazine wrote about Sigrid Kressmann, who has carved a career for herself as an architect in Berlin; "Her big grey eyes gaze happily into a future peopled with women who are all like Sigrid Kressmann herself – hard-working, good looking, aware and self-reliant."

Limited report

But the magazine report turned out to be little more than a fashionable, chic feuilleton. Social welfare policies and social aspects were completely ignored. Moreover it has not been possible for women industrialists and career girls to carve out an image for themselves in the face of their male colleagues.

Few would be better qualified than the businesswomen in this organisation to make women who take an active part in society socially acceptable.

Nevertheless there is always danger that this association for leading women in business, commerce and industry will become a kind of nature conservation area and finally nothing more than a ghetto for women managers. Many of the women who belong to this association have been forced to take over a company when their husband died.

This association for women industrialists could prove to be very useful in breaking down bias and prejudices. For instance it could help to do away with the wide-spread fear held by many men of having to work as a subordinate to a woman in a managerial positon.

There is no known case history where men have not been able to work satisfactorily and efficiently with a woman manager handing out the orders in their department.

Quite the contrary in fact. Women at a managerial level often prove to have the essential qualities for their post. In many cases they are superior diplomats to men and they are able to treat their team, from executive down to the man on the factory floor with utmost tact and consideration and thereby encourage all who work under them to greater productivity and achievements than a male manager would be able.

In what has been to date the only investigation carried out by the social research department at Münster University Heinz Hartmann has come to the conclusion that the woman who is big white chief of a factory and hands out orders to men in subordinate positions is known to the general public as "Unternehmerin" (a female industrialist) and is considered quite a phenomenon. She appears to many to be rather more like a phantom.

Political complaint

In the Federal state of Baden-Württemberg women in the Social Democratic Party have formed themselves into a united front against their male party colleagues.

They have been protesting that of the 327 deputies in the Baden-Württemberg provincial assembly only two are of the fairer sex. But at least 15 women had sufficient qualifications to be considered as members of the Bundestag for the Social Democrats.

Nor is it likely that the Christian Democrats and the Free Democrats have fewer emancipated women with all the characteristics and qualities necessary to represent their party in the provincial assembly.

Women have begun to storm the Bastille and men are fearing for their domain. Probably women are denting men's vanity if they are too hardworking and strive for high positions.

It is considered that a suitable career for women today is still to rise from shorthand typist to secretary or from salesgirl to head of department. The decisions that women have to take on a job such as this are scarcely different from those they take by hearth and home. "Shall we have pork chops tonight or lamb?"

Surveys taken among girls studying for *Abitur* have shown that they have a somewhat simpler idea of their future career. One thing they all have in common is that they want their job to be enjoyable. And they all want to carve out a career for themselves.

Karin Krüger

(Handelsblatt, 26 February 1971)

Dr Paula Maeder

(Photo: Ka...

Association form... to present the wom... point of view

Dr Paula Maeder is 54 years ... has studied education, phi... and psychology and is today hea... personnel department of a ... company employing 3,000 peop... belongs to the Lower Saxony ... the Free Democrats and is at th... time the state Chairman of the ... Republic Confederation of Acade...

Recently this attractive wom... made a name for herself in a ne... She is now Chairman of the ... Saxony state Women's Council, ... ficial mouthpiece for 24 associat... the state.

It includes DAG, *Deutsche Angest... Gewerkschaft*, the white-collar ... union and the DGB, *Deutscher Gew... schaftsbund*, the Confederation ... Federal Republic Trade Unions, ... associations, the Red Cross i... country and the Society of Jewi... men. These organisations are al... corned that women should be ... represented in public life.

Despite all this official activ... Maeder is no suffragette. The Prem... the Federal state of Lower Saxo... former Finance Minister, Alfred ... (SPD) is known to be a cautio... when it comes to spending mone... she persuaded him to dig into his po... and give her 10,000 Marks as a start... offering to make him the patron of ... new Women's Council. Then she ... got down to business.

She said: "Women, now 35, left ... and entered a society that paid little ... to them. We want to do away with ... traditional attitude. We also wa... make known in the corridors of pow... the Bundestag that it is about time ... was an end to inequality between ... sexes, a proposition anchored firml... Basic Law."

The Women's Council in Lower S... is not the first institution to ... women's influence and voice ... opinions. There are similar coun... seven other states of the Federal ... public. A Federal women's counc... been operating in Bad Godesbe... some time.

These councils are concerned to p... the female view and "to shar... burdens of our society". This co... extends from home building and the ... plans for homes – the kitchen and ... rooms – to problems of space, th... and control of children, a perm... advisory council for women and ... on how to help yourself" for all ... in matters concerning marriage ... woman's rights in divorce. For ... purpose all small towns and commu... should have a centre where wome... obtain advice. *Karl-Heinz Kallenb...*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 27 February 19...)

SPORT

Ice-skating reaches an all-time low

...s is the first and last time that has ...ppened, this country's disappoint... -skaters vowed on returning from ...iation in the United States in 1969. ... Colorado Springs world champion... they came last and last but one in ...en's singles. Never before in the ...y of world championships had German ice-skaters done so badly.

...re and then it was decided to start ... from scratch. Grants were demand... ...d provided. The appointment of a ...nal coach was agreed and work on ... and promising youngsters heralded. Three years after this major reshuffle ...rld championships were again held, ... time in Lyons, France. Yet our man ...aus Grimmelt not only came third from ..., he is also the same Klaus Grimmelt ...o came last at Colorado Springs in ...69.

There could hardly be a more convinc... demonstration of the bottomless pit ...to which ice-skating in this country has ...llen, of the three years of beauty sleep ...t has put in between the 1968 Genoble ...d the 1972 Sapporo Olympics.

World ice-skating champions

Women
1. Beatrix Schuba, Austria
2. Julie Holmes, USA
3. Karen Magnussen, Canada

Men
1. Ondrej Nepela, Czechoslovakia
2. Patrick Pera, France
3. Sergei Chetverukhin, USSR

Pairs
1. Rodnina/Ulanov, USSR
2. Smirnova/Zuraikin, USSR
3. Starbuck/Shelley, USA

Dance
1. Pachamova/Gorshkov, USSR
2. Buck/Buck, Federal Republic
3. Schwomeyer/Sladky, USA

Brother and sister Angelika and Erich ...uck may have won a silver medal at Lyons and Almut Lehmann and Herbert Wiesinger may have come fifth but as ...gards the Bucks dancing has yet to ...ecome an Olympic discipline and Leh...ann and Wiesinger looked very much as ...ough they are more likely to come ...xth than fourth next time.

Either way, both pairs are retiring next winter, which will put the cat among the pigeons. This country will then once and ...or all be relegated to an also-ran rating.

At least talented youngsters from the ...ast are living up to German ice-skating ...aditions. Fifteen-year-old Sonja Morgen...ern of Karl-Marx-Stadt has already ...come this year's main star, first at the ...uropean championships in Zürich, then ...ree weeks later at Lyons.

Her tour de force on both occasions has ...en the treble salchow. She is the first ... ever to achieve the feat. Fifteen-year-...ld fellow-countryman Jan Hoffmann ...ill shortly by joining her with a quad...ple salchow, spinning four times round ...is own longitudunal axis. This too will be ...world first on ice-skates.

...n view of the success of Gaby Seyfert, now retired, the powers that be in the GDR have set up an ice-skating kindergarten that now has more than one figure-skating youngster with the talent of a Sonja Morgenstern or a Jan Hoffmann at the ready.

This, then, is the starting-point from which a solution to the dilemma in this country could be found. For far too long, until the mid-sixties, ice-skaters basked indolently in the bright light radiated by aces Manfred Schnelldorfer and Marika Kilius and Hans-Jürgen Bäumler.

This accusation is levelled both at the association and at its coaches. There is, for instance, reason to wonder whether Federal trainer Erich Zeller of Garmisch really uses the latest coaching methods.

Zeller owes his fame and reputation largely to the success of his proteges Marika Kilius and Hans-Jürgen Bäumler yet at the time the couple derived no end of benefit from the wealth of ideas of ambitious Marika.

To this day Zeller pupils are influenced to no small extent by either their own ideas or the advice of friends. Judith Bayer, runner-up in the women's championships, had her figure-skating programme drawn up by pair skater Herbert Wiesinger.

National coach Erich Zeller merely acted in a coordinatory capacity, much as he had done with Kilius and Bäumler years ago. He does not have a great deal to contribute in the way of new and original ideas.

Fellow-coach Walter Hofer of Füssen, who invariably creates the impression of being piqued at not having been appointed national trainer himself, is so behind the times even that he maintains talent can only be developed by training on the ice. He considers any other kind of compensatory training to be no use at all.

Other countries are streets ahead. The Russians, with both world championship pair events to their credit, have systematically developed the work and ideas of several-time world champions and Olympic gold medallists Belusova and Protopopov.

In its tireless efforts to make the old recipe work again and produce a new Schnelldorfer or Kilius and Bäumler this country has forgotten to keep an eye on international developments – and new yardsticks have long since been established.

In the Federal Republic officials, talent scouts and coaches kept to the beaten tracks of the golden fifties and sixties with the inevitable outcome that try as they might nothing came of their endeavours.

The officials are unable to put the coaches in the picture because they are, for the most part, laymen when it comes to technique and any case have more than enough trouble sorting out squabbles in their own ranks.

Many a reasonable reform proposal has come to grief as a result of internal dissension, for instance the suggestion that in future not every champion be allowed to take part in expensive international events at the association's expense.

As soon as there is any suggestion that the champion in such and such a discipline is not worth sending to wherever it is, the officials of his section of the association raise Cain and threaten to unseat the executive in the next elections.

The situation in ice-skating in this country would be absolutely without a silver lining were it not for the work clubs are putting in on youngsters. The mid-January national championships in Berlin held forth the promise of better things to come from about 1975 onwards.

In comparison the standards of senior skaters are so poor that this country might as well throw in the towel until 1975. Televiewers are, of course, occasionally reminded that it still can be done – but, alas, only by the others at present.

Wolfgang Uhrig

(DIE ZEIT, 5 March 1971)



Angelika and Erich Buck came second at the world ice-skating championships held in Lyons (Photo: Nordbild)

Olympics staff worries

Munich's Olympic organisation committee is worried about how it is to find the 27,000-odd staff that will be needed between 15 August and 11 September 1972, a fair number of whom must be able to speak foreign languages.

The problem of multilingual hostesses has been solved: 1,200 were needed, 4,000 applied. But there have been far too few applications for many of the other jobs so far.

These include 260 foreign-language speakers to chaperone the teams, 220 wardens for the Olympic village and 160 female wardens for the women's quarters, not to mention 1,000 usherettes.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 March 1971)

One in four wants to see Olympics

One person in four in this country would like to see the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, according to a survey recently published by the Institute of Applied Social Research (Infas).

Nine per cent of the sample of more than 1,000 people over eighteen in the Federal Republic excluding West Berlin stated that they definitely intend seeing the Olympics for themselves on the spot. A further eighteen per cent said they would like to be present.

Special interest is shown by men, people of younger age groups and members of sports clubs. There were considerable regional differences, though. Fifty per cent of Bavarians plan to attend the Olympics in their state capital as against only 23 per cent over the rest of the country.

The survey reveals that the problem of accommodation is already stopping many people from definitely thinking in terms of going to Munich for next year's Olympics. Only one in three have made up their minds, the remainder will be going "touch wood."

Some 27,000 staff will be needed from 15 August to 11 September for work in the Olympic village, the press quarters, centres and the individual sports facilities. A number of them, for instance the 260 hosts seconded to the various teams, must speak foreign languages.

There will also be 260 wardens at the men's quarters in the Olympic village and 160 female wardens for the women. There will be 1,000 usherettes in the stadiums, not to mention telephonists and typists. About 1,000 messengers, 500 ticket collectors and 2,000 members of cleaning squads have also yet to be enrolled.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 3 March 1971)

[illegible]	SA $ 0.05	Colombia	col. $ 1.—	Formosa	NT $ 5.—	Indonesia	Rp. 15.—	Malawi	11 d	Paraguay	G. 15.—	Sudan	PT 5.—
[illegible]	Af 10.—	Congo (Brazzaville)	F.C.F.A. 30.—	France	FF 0.60	Iran	Rl 10.—	Malaysia	M. $ 0.40	Peru	S. 3.50	Syria	£ S 0.60
[illegible]	DA 0.60	Congo (Kinshasa)	Makuta 7.—	Gabon	F.C.F.A. 30.—	Iraq	50 fils	Mali	FM 60.—	Philippines	P. phil 0.60	Tanzania	EAs 0.25
[illegible]	Esc. 1.—	Costa Rica	C 0.85	Gambia	11 d	Ireland	11 d	Mexico	$ 1.50	Poland	Zl. 0.60	Thailand	B 3.—
[illegible]	$ m n 45.—	Cuba	P 0.13	Germany	DM 1.—	Israel	I £ 0.40	Morocco	DM —.65	Portugal	Esc. 1.—	Trinidad and Tobago	BWI $ 0.20
[illegible]	10 c.	Cyprus	11 d	Ghana	cedi 0.12	Italy	Lir. 80	Mozambique	Esc. 1.—	Rhodesia	11 d	Togo	F.C.F.A. 30.—
[illegible]	S 3.—	Czechoslovakia	Kcs 0.60	Great Britain	11 d	Ivory Coast	F.C.F.A. 30.—	Nepal	Mohur 1.—	Ruanda	F. Rw 12.—	Turkey	T £ 1.25
[illegible]	bfr 8.—	Dahomey	F.C.F.A. 30.—	Greece	Dr 4.—	Jamaica	11 d	Netherlands	Hfl 0.50	Rumania	Leu 0.50	Tunisia	65 M
[illegible]	$ b 1.50	Denmark	dkr 0.90	Guatemala	Q 0.15	Japan	Yen 50	Netherlands Antilles	G. ant 0.25	Saudi Arabia	RL 0.60	Uganda	EAs 0.25
[illegible]	N. Cr. $ 0.35	Dom. Rep.	RD $ 0.15	Guayana	BWI $ 0.20	Jordan	50 fils	New Zealand	9 c.	Sweden	skr 0.60	UAR	PT 5.—
[illegible]	Lev 0.05	Ecuador	S 2.60	Guinea	F.G. 30.—	Kenya	EAs 0.25	Nicaragua	C 0.85	Switzerland	FS 0.50	Uruguay	P 20.—
[illegible]	K 0.60	El Salvador	C 0.30	Haiti	G 0.65	Kuwait	50 fils	Niger	F.C.F.A. 30.—	Senegal	F.C.F.A. 30.—	USA	$ 0.20
[illegible]	F. Bu. 10.—	Ethiopia	Eth. $ 0.30	Honduras (Br.)	$ BH 0.20	Laos	Kip 60.—	Nigeria	11 d	Sierra Leone	Le 0.10	USSR	Rbl. 0.10
[illegible]	R 4.40	Fiji	11 d	Honduras	L 0.25	Lebanon	P 40.—	Norway	nkr 0.90	Somalia	Sh So 0.90	Venezuela	B 0.60
[illegible]	F.C.F.A. 30.—	Finland	fmk 0.60	Hong Kong	HK $ 0.70	Liberia	Lib $ 0.15	Pakistan	Rs 0.60	South Africa	Rand 0.10	Yugoslavia	Din. 1.—
[illegible]	Can. $ —.20			Hungary	Ft 1.—	Libya	50 Mills	Panama	B. 0.15	South Korea	Won 35.—	Zambia	11 d
[illegible]	cR —.60			Iceland	Kr 5.—	Luxembourg	lfr 6			S. Viet Nam	V.N. $ 15.—		
[illegible]	Esc. 0.60			India	Rs 0,80	Madagascar	FM 30.—			Spain	Pts 8.—		